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BY KAWADA

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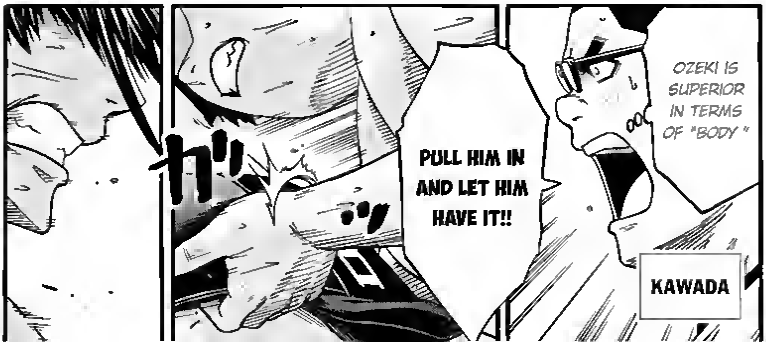
Round 116: **"SPIRIT" "BODY" AND "TECHNIQUE."**



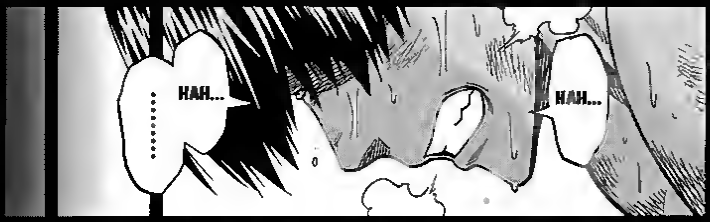
THAT'S THE COUNTER-MEASURE EVERYONE COMES UP WITH ...!
千葉
大太刀流
HE'S ATTACKING WITH HIS HEAD SO I CAN'T GRAB HIS ARMS...HUH?
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN DO...?

HE STILL GOT HIS ARM DESPITE HIM ALREADY HAVING A GRIP ON THE BELT!
WHA-

I WAS ABLE TO EARN MY PLACE BY SHI-DOU-SAN'S SIDE.
WITH THESE "TECHNIQUES"...
SO WHAT... WITH MY "TECH-NIQUES,"
...HIS "BODY" IS SUPERIOR TO MINE?

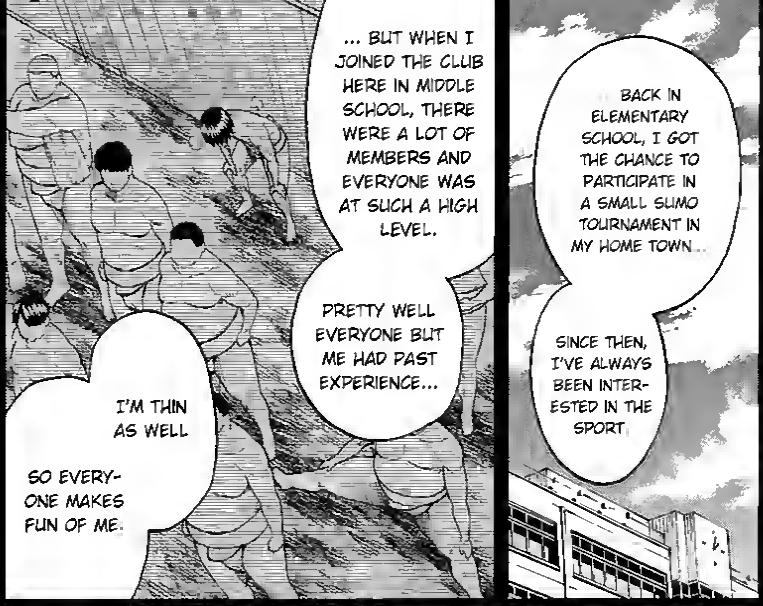
TO SAVE HIM THIS TIME...!!
I'M GONNA BE THE ONE
5 YEARS AGO
ENOKI SHINTAROU
MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST YEAR
GUHAH.

HEY ENOKI! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU TODAY,
GET OUT OF THE RING AND GO AND DO LEG RAISES OR SOMETHING!
HAHAHAH. HE'S SO WEAK IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BULLY-ING HIM.
IN FACT HE'S SO BAD IT'S HARD TO ACTUALLY FIGHT HIM.


HAH...
HAH...

.....
ガーテ
THANKS FOR YOUR TIME-
!
CLUB RESIGNATION LETTER
CLUB NAME: SUMO CLUB

OH IT'S YOU ENOKI.
YOU OKAY?
ドゴ
UWAHH.
OUCH...
OH... SORRY 'BOUT THAT...
UWAH... IT'S THE SUMO CLUB'S SECOND YEAR ACE; TENNOUJI-SAN...!
!
AH... HUH...!?
...?
退部届
WHAT? YOU'RE QUITTIN' THE SUMO CLUB?
AH...


... BUT WHEN I JOINED THE CLUB HERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, THERE WERE A LOT OF MEMBERS AND EVERYONE WAS AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL.
PRETTY WELL EVERYONE BUT ME HAD PAST EXPERIENCE...
I'M THIN AS WELL
SO EVERY-ONE MAKES FUN OF ME.
... BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I GOT THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL SUMO TOURNAMENT IN MY HOME TOWN...
SINCE THEN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTER-ESTED IN THE SPORT.

...BUT SOMEHOW... I'VE MANAGED TO STICK WITH IT FOR THE PAST 6 MONTHS...
I NEVER LEARN ANY-THING...
...THE COACH SPENDS ALL HIS TIME WITH THE BIGGER GUYS

I JUST DON'T THINK I CAN ENJOY SUMO...
AFTER 6 MONTHS I'VE COME TO UNDER-STAND.
JUST LIKE EVERYONE SAYS, I HAVE NO TALENT FOR THE SPORT...

OUTTA ALL THE FIRST YEARS, YOU WERE ONE OF THE ONE'S I HAD THE HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS FOR THOUGH.
'TIS A SHAME.
EH!?
THAT SO?
.....
N...NO WAY.
THAT'S A LIE...
TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SPOKEN TO YOU...
SO WHY...
!?
YOU PRACTICE SOME KINDA MARTIAL ARTS, RIGHT?
ONE OF THE GRAPPLING STYLES TOO.

BEFORE I JOINED THE CLUB I DID SOME AIKIDO, YES...
.....
BUT ONLY THE TINIEST BIT...
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE, SO HOW DO YOU KNOW...?
I COULD TELL AT A GLANCE.
NEWBIES DON'T FIGHT LIKE THAT.
YOU WERE ONE OF THE FIRST NEWBIES TO MASTER FALLIN' SAFELY AND SHUFFLIN'*,
I WAS INTERESTED IN YOUR WRIST STRENGTH AND YOUR MAESABAKI ARE SORTA UNIQUE TOO.
THE REASON EVERYONE STRUGGLED'TA FIGHT YA, IS BECAUSE YOU'RE STRONG.
THIS GUY DIDN'T JUST KNOW MY NAME... HE EVEN KNOWS THE FINE DETAILS ABOUT ME...?
THE ACE OF THIS MASSIVE SUMO CLUB HAS...
HE'S EVEN BEEN OBSERVING FIRST YEARS LIKE ME WHO HAVE NO PRESENCE...
YOU MAY THINK I'M A STUPID CREEP AND THAT I CAN'T SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE,
BUT THAT'S WRONG...

*N: SURIASHI (摺足) IS A SUMO EXERCISE WHERE YOU MOVE YOUR LEGS FORWARD WITHOUT LIFTING THEM OFF THE GROUND, IE. SHUFFLING

THE STUPID ONE HERE IS YOU,
ENOKI.
BEFORE LETTIN' THE WORDS OF THE MASSES GET TO YOU
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOURSELF?
ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT YOURSELF PROPERLY?
THE MASSES DON'T MAKE YA STRONGER,
THE ONE WHO WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER
IS NONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF.

IF A TINY AMOUNT'A AIKIDO HAS AFFECTED YOUR STRENGTH THIS GREATLY,
HOW 'BOUT YOU TAKE IT UP SERIOUSLY...? IT MAY REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR SUMO.
BUT AT THE END'A THE DAY, THE DECISION'S UP TO YOU.
IF YOU REALLY WANNA QUIT, GO AHEAD.
HOWEVER, YOU DO ENJOY SUMO
I CAN SEE THAT MUCH.
THE STRONGER YOU GET, THE MORE YOU'LL ENJOY IT, I ASSURE THAT
I MEAN
AT THE MOMENT
I FREAKIN' LOVE SUMO.

THE WORDS HE SPOKE THAT DAY
...BUT I CAN AT LEAST SAY THIS-
HOW SERIOUS SHIDOU-SAN'S WORDS WERE...
I DON'T KNOW
ALLOWED ME TO BECOME STRONGER.
AFTER ALL... I LOVE SUMO...
I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST REGRET EVER.
IF I HAD QUIT LIKE I PLANNED
THEN SOMEDAY... WHEN I FINALLY REALISED HOW I REALLY FELT ABOUT SUMO

MORE THAN ANYTHING
IN MY LIFE...

I WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT THIS FAR...
I'M ETERNALLY GRATEFUL... BECAUSE YOU PUSHED ME FORWARD BACK THEN

I CAN UNDER-STAND YOU...
THAT YOU ARE THE SAME...
AND I'M SURE

OZEKI-SAN...
HOWEVER OUR FEELINGS ARE NOT THE SAME.
I'M PART OF A POWER SCHOOL AND
カル
カル
I HAVE BEEN CHASING HIM FOR 5 YEARS!!
TN: DOUBLE HANDED UNDERARM GRIP
A MO-ROZASHI *!!
HIS GRIP IS SO DEEP!!
...
THIS IS

THE DYE ENOKI SHINTAROU HAS BEEN COLOURED IN BY THE KINGS SINCE HIS FIRST YEAR
HIS "TECH-NIQUE"

... HOWEVER, IT ALSO MEANS
IT'S PROBABLY THE ACE IN THE WHOLE YOU'VE COME UP WITH TO MAKE USE OF YOUR WEIGHT...
ONCE YOU GET AN UNDERARM GRIP AND PULL YOURSELF IN CLOSE, IT'S DANGEROUS.

WITH JUST YOUR "SPIRIT" AND "BODY"!!

IT'S NOT GOOD ...
SINCE HE'S LET HIM GET UNDERNEATH, OZEKI CAN HARDLY KEEP HIS BODY OFF THE GROUND...!

MY SUMO ISN'T SO LIGHT THAT YOU CAN HOPE TO BEAT IT
THAT THAT'S ALL YOU CAN RELY ON NOW...!

HE CAN'T STOP ...!!

"TECHNIQUE" IS SOMETHING YOU BUILD UP BY TRAINING WITH OTHER PEOPLE..
TO THE CAPTAIN WHO HAS PRACTICED THIS ENTIRE TIME ON HIS OWN.
HE'S HARDLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT.....

TN: HEAD-TWISTING THROW.

... I WAS ALL ALONE UNTIL THIS YEAR...
GETTING IN CLOSE ISN'T ENOUGH... I NEED A NEW TECHNIQUE...
I HAVE TO INCREASE MY OFFENSIVE OPTIONS...
SOMETHING ELSE I CAN RELY UPON WHEN CORNERED...!
... BUT NOW I HAVE THEM.
I HAVE THE OTHERS...
I HAVE USHIO...
LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER, TO BECOME THE BEST IN JAPAN!
I HAVE COMRADES TO TRAIN MY "TECHNIQUE" WITH...!!
IF "SPIRIT" AND "BODY" AREN'T ENOUGH...

I'VE GAINED FROM MY COMRADES
THEN I'LL USE THE "TECH-NIQUES"

TO SEIZE OUR DREAM!!!
HE'S ARRIVED AT THIS STAGE WITH THE "TECHNIQUES" HE'S LEARNT! NEXT ISSUE A CENTER COLOUR!!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 116 / END.

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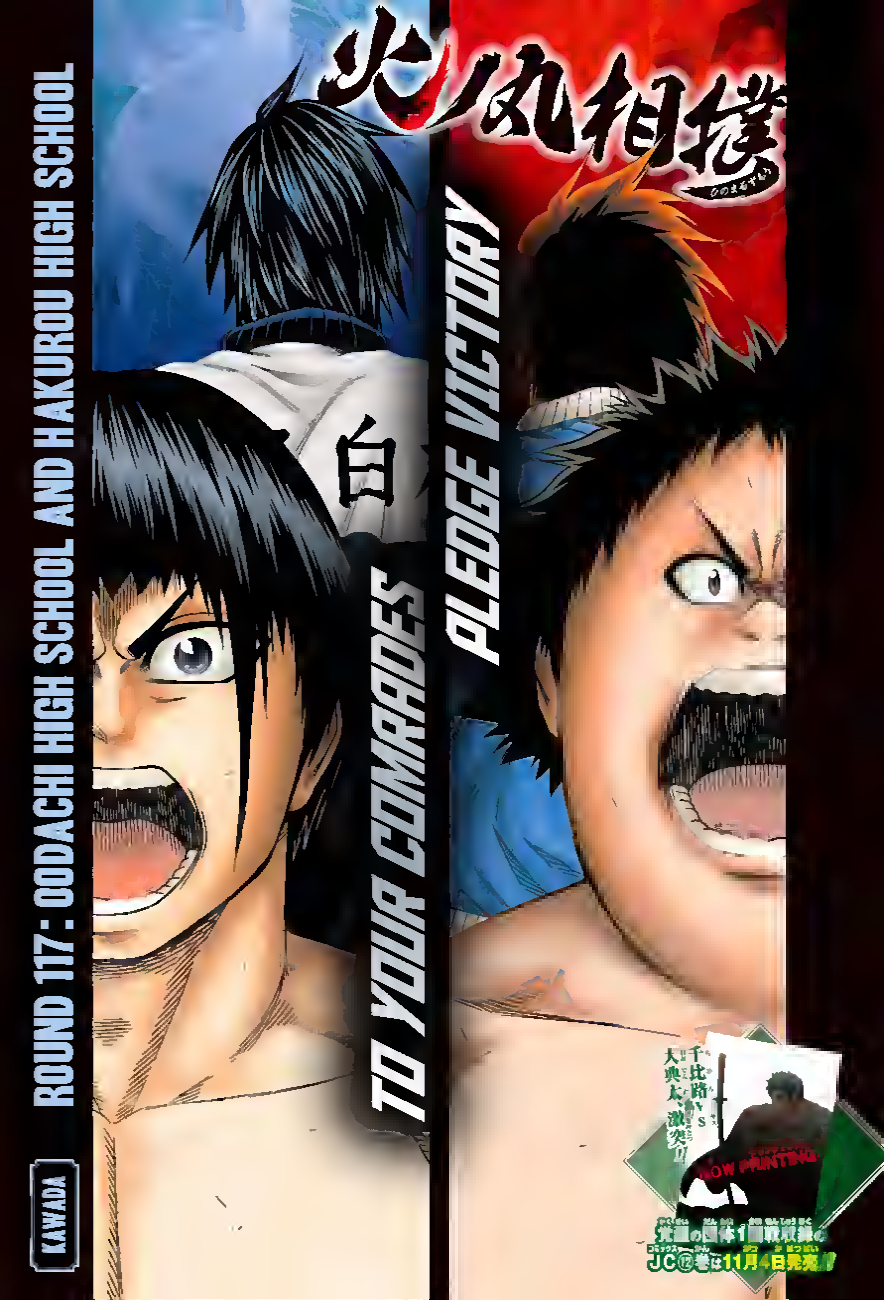
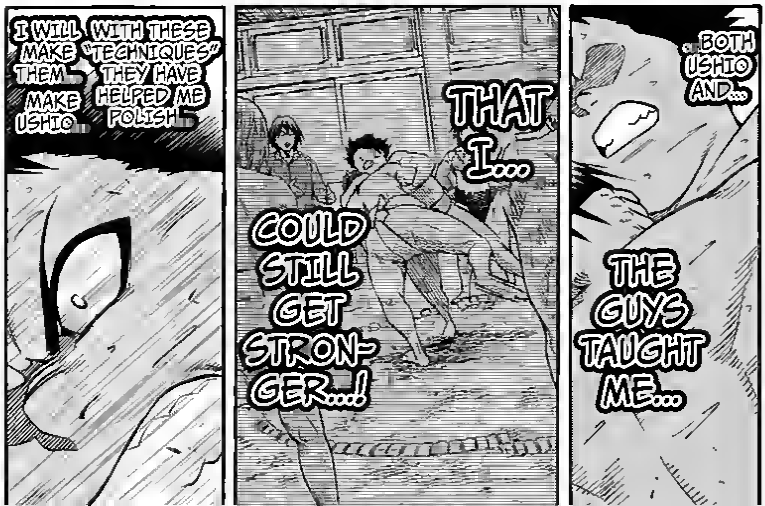
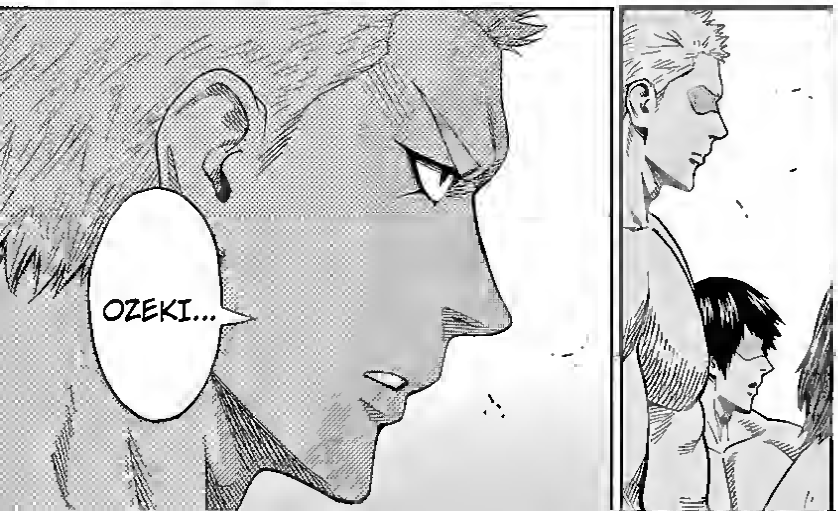

火ノ丸相撲
KAWADA
ROUND 117: OODACHI HIGH SCHOOL AND HAKUROU HIGH SCHOOL
TO YOUR COMRADES PLEDGE VICTORY
白
千比路vs大典太、激突!!
NOW PRINTING
JC⑰巻は11月4日発売!!

BRING IT HOME! THE FIRST VICTORY!!!
GOOW!!
CAPTAIN!!


I WILL MAKE THEM MAKE USHIO
WITH THESE "TECHNIQUES" THEY HAVE HELPED ME POLISH
THAT I...
COULD STILL GET STRONGER...!
...BOTH USHIO AND...
THE GUYS TAUGHT ME...

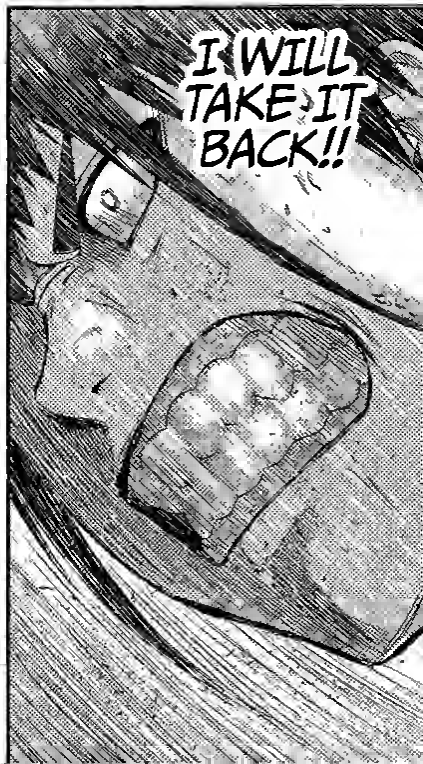
THE BEST IN JAPAN!!


OZEKI...

THE MATCH HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.
SHIDOU -SAN...
白樺
TOMOR-ROW I...
WILL GRASP VICTORY WITHOUT FAIL...!!
...I WON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS...
I WILL BRING YOU FACE TO FACE
WITH KUZE SOUSUKE ONCE AGAIN.

...I AIN'T ABLE TO DO IT ALONE.
!
I'M COUNTIN' ON YA, SHIN-TAROU.

T/N: ANKLE LIFT.



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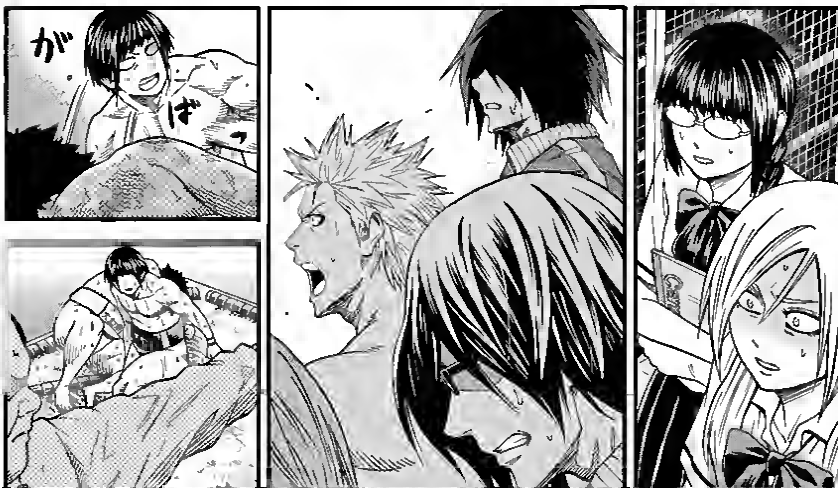
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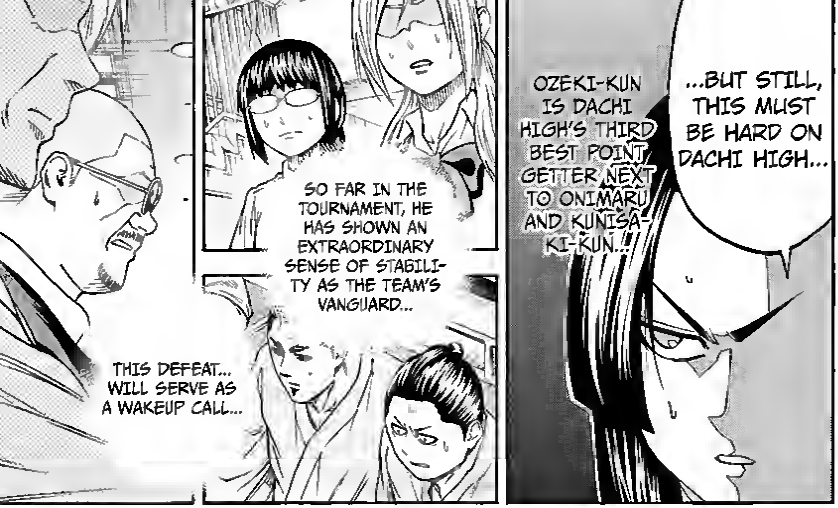
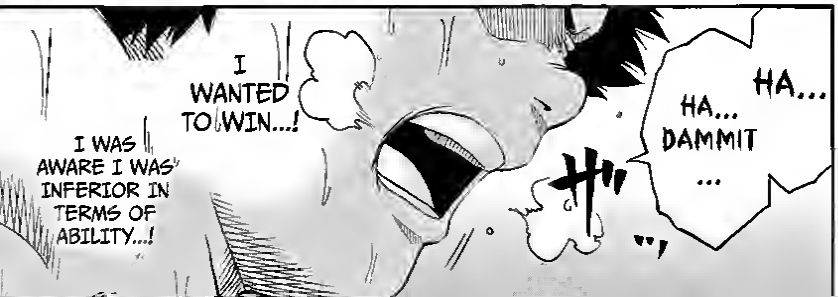
WESTERN CORNER WINS!!
ALRIIIIGHT~!!
HAKU -ROU!
HAKU -ROU!
.....!
鳥取
桜

...THE ALMIGHTY HAKUROU...
PULLED A VICTORY POSE...?
IT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH THAT MATCH MEANT TO HIM...
...YEAH...
BUT THE SAME GOES FOR OZEKI...
BECAUSE IT WAS A COMPETITION OF "SPIRIT", WHAT DECIDED WHO WAS THE VICTOR WAS...
THE DIFFERENCE IN TECHNIQUE...!
HE DID NOT WAVER DESPITE THE THROWS HE WAS SUBJECTED TO AND RESPONDED WITH HIS SENSE... AND MITIGATED THE DAMAGE...
OZEKI-KUN'S TECHNIQUES WERE GREAT TOO... BUT THEY STILL PALED IN COMPARISON TO ENOKI-KUN'S...


...BUT STILL, THIS MUST BE HARD ON DACHI HIGH...
OZEKI-KUN IS DACHI HIGH'S THIRD BEST POINT GETTER NEXT TO ONIMARU AND KUNISAKI-KUN...!
SO FAR IN THE TOURNAMENT, HE HAS SHOWN AN EXTRAORDINARY SENSE OF STABILITY AS THE TEAM'S VANGUARD...
THIS DEFEAT... WILL SERVE AS A WAKEUP CALL...

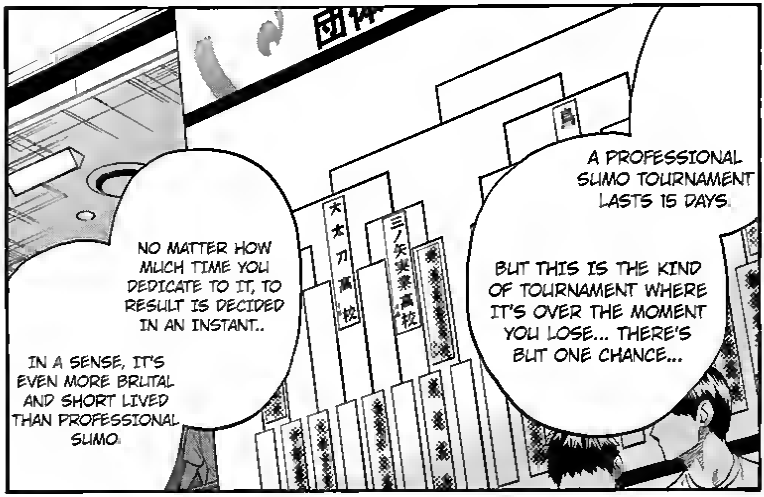
THEIR OPPONENTS ARE HAKUROU...
THEY'RE IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LEAGUE TO ANY OF THEIR PAST OPPONENTS...

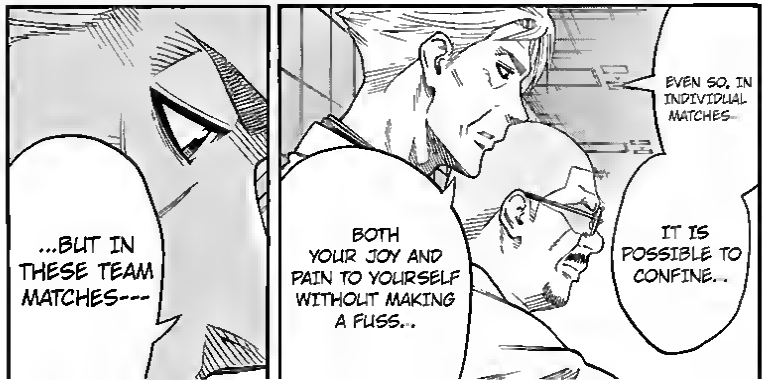

HA...
HA... DAMMIT...
I WANTED TO WIN...!
I WAS AWARE I WAS INFERIOR IN TERMS OF ABILITY...!

THAT WAS GREAT SUMO!!
!
AND INSPIRE COURAGE TO THE REST OF THE TEAM!
BUT THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO WIN...
YOUR FEELINGS GOT STRAIGHT THROUGH TO ALL OF US!
LEAVE THE REST IN OUR HANDS!!

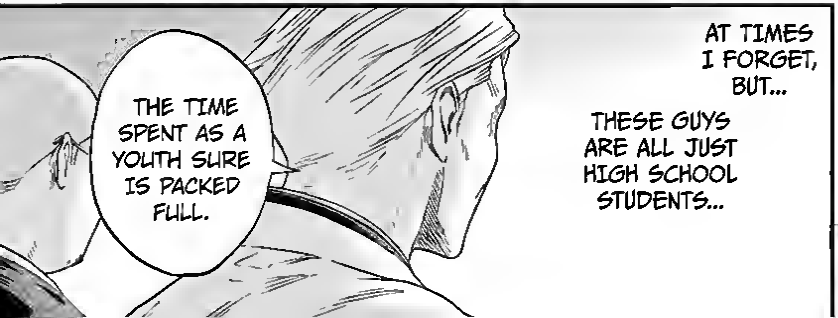
HA...
HA...
YES!
YES!
NICE WORK ENOKI.
WE'VE GOT THIS, GUYS!
WELL THAT'S POOR.
SHOWING A VICTORY POSE IN THE RING IS A DISCOURTEOUS ACT.
SUMO IS A SHINTO RITUAL AS WELL AS A MARTIAL ART. TO DISRESPECT THAT IS UTTER SHAME.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'M TOTALLY AGAINST...
ESPECIALLY IN THESE TEAM DIVISION MATCHES...
フッ…
HOW-EVER...

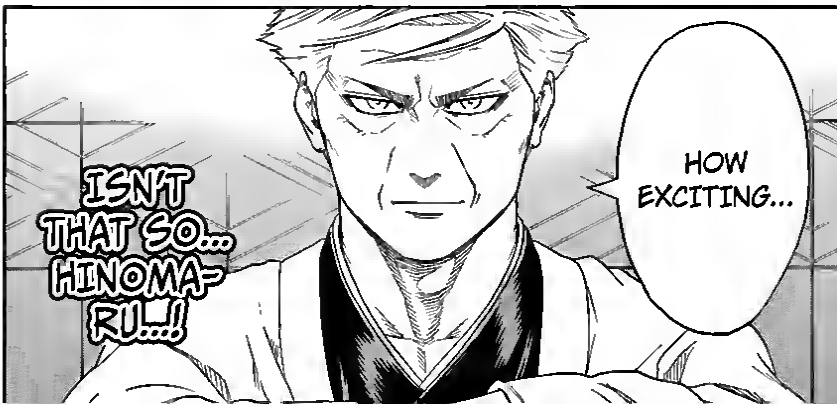

NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME YOU DEDICATE TO IT, TO RESULT IS DECIDED IN AN INSTANT..
IN A SENSE, IT'S EVEN MORE BRUTAL AND SHORT LIVED THAN PROFESSIONAL SUMO.
A PROFESSIONAL SUMO TOURNAMENT LASTS 15 DAYS.
BUT THIS IS THE KIND OF TOURNAMENT WHERE IT'S OVER THE MOMENT YOU LOSE... THERE'S BUT ONE CHANCE...


...BUT IN THESE TEAM MATCHES---
BOTH YOUR JOY AND PAIN TO YOURSELF WITHOUT MAKING A FUSS..
IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONFINE..
EVEN SO, IN INDIVIDUAL MATCHES

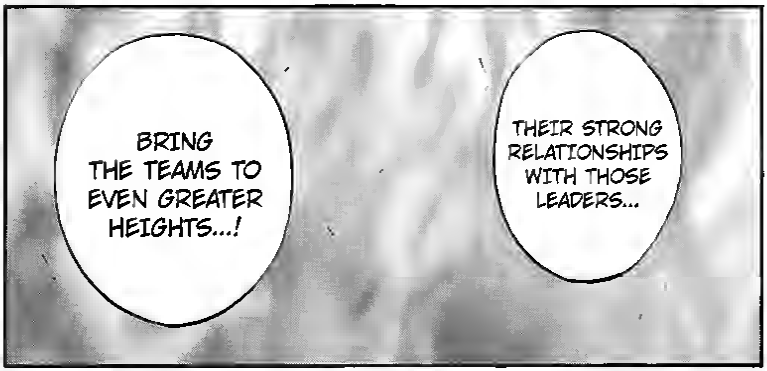
THEIR COMRADES ARE BESIDE THE RING FIGHTING WITH THEM.
AND THE FEELINGS THEY CAN'T SUPPRESS.
THOSE THAT THE FIGHTER HAS TAKEN ON COME BURSTING FORTH.

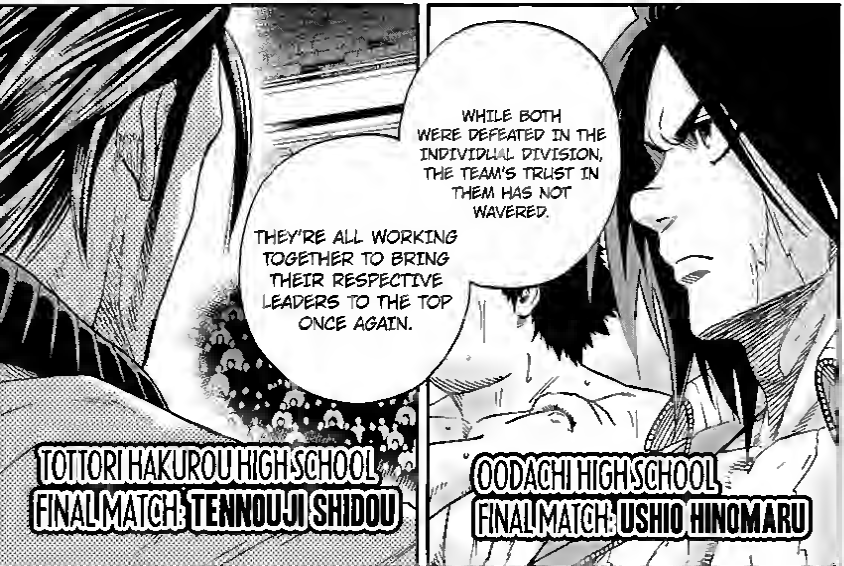

AT TIMES I FORGET, BUT...
THESE GUYS ARE ALL JUST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS...
THE TIME SPENT AS A YOUTH SURE IS PACKED FULL.

THEY EXPERIENCE JOY AND SORROW TOGETHER
THE BURDENS OF THOSE WHO EAT FROM THE SAME BOWL...
FUSE TOGETHER AS THEY ALL AIM FOR A SINGLE GOAL...
I SEE, SO THIS IS...
THE HIGH SCHOOL SUMO TEAM DIVISION ...HUH?

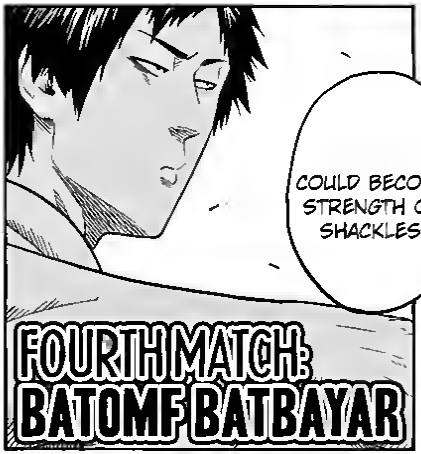

HOW EXCITING...
ISN'T THAT SO... HINOMA-RU...!

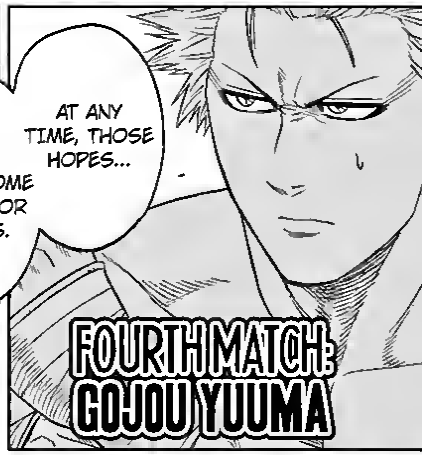
BOTH SCHOOLS...
.....
ARE TEAMS THAT ARE LEAD...
BY FIERCELY CHARISMATIC INDIVIDUALS IN HINOMARU AND TENNOUJI.


THEIR STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE LEADERS...
BRING THE TEAMS TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS...!


WHILE BOTH WERE DEFEATED IN THE INDIVIDUAL DIVISION, THE TEAM'S TRUST IN THEM HAS NOT WAVERED.
THEY'RE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING THEIR RESPECTIVE LEADERS TO THE TOP ONCE AGAIN.
TOTTORI HAKUROU HIGH SCHOOL FINAL MATCH: TENNOUJI SHIDOU
OODACHI HIGH SCHOOL FINAL MATCH: USHIO HINOMARU

HONESTLY SPEAKING, HAKUROU IS MILES AHEAD IN TERMS OF ABILITY...
BUT THIS IS THE TEAM DIVISION.
CAN THEY PASS THEIR HOPES ONTO THEIR LEADERS...
FROM HERE ON OUT, DACHI HIGH WILL BE FACED WITH EVEN MORE DISADVANTAGEOUS FIGHTS...


COULD BECOME STRENGTH OR SHACKLES.
FOURTH MATCH: BATOMF BATBAYAR


AT ANY TIME, THOSE HOPES...
FOURTH MATCH: GOJOU YUUMA

BUT THAT'S WHY, WHEN IT DOES BECOME A STRENGTH...
THIRD MATCH: KANOU AKIHIRA

THIRD MATCH: KUNISAKI CHIHIRO

THEY COULD CAUSE AN UPSET...!!
SECOND MATCH: SHUTOU MASAOMI
SECOND MATCH: MITSUHASHI KEI

THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS MAY BE WORLDS APART, BUT THEIR FEELINGS ARE THE SAME. A MORTAL COMBAT BETWEEN TWO SCHOOLS WHERE NEITHER CAN AFFORD TO LOSE... THE CURTAINS ARE RISING!!
PROCEEDING TO THE SECOND MATCH---
.....
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 117 / END

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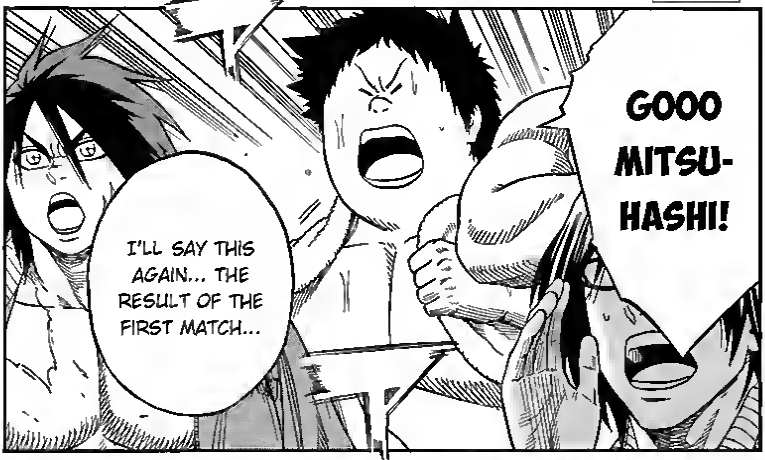
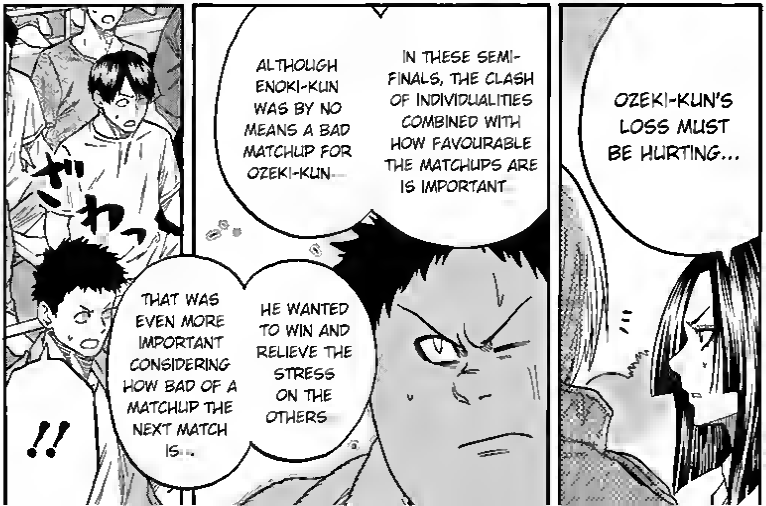


Round 118: MY METHOD FOR VICTORY


OZEKI-KUN'S LOSS MUST BE HURTING...
IN THESE SEMI-FINALS, THE CLASH OF INDIVIDUALITIES COMBINED WITH HOW FAVOURABLE THE MATCHUPS ARE IS IMPORTANT
ALTHOUGH ENOKI-KUN WAS BY NO MEANS A BAD MATCHUP FOR OZEKI-KUN...
HE WANTED TO WIN AND RELIEVE THE STRESS ON THE OTHERS
THAT WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERING HOW BAD OF A MATCHUP THE NEXT MATCH IS...
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!!

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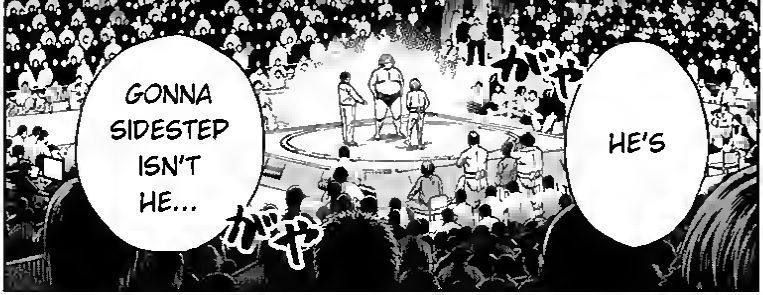
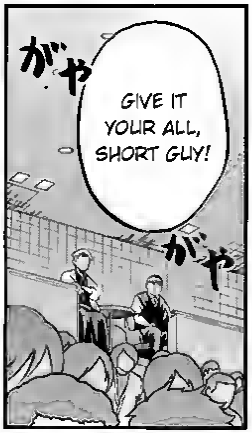
ざわ
WHOA... NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
HE CAN'T WIN...
SHUTOU MASAOMI
(THIRD YEAR)
187CM
188KG

MITSUHASHI KEI
(FIRST YEAR)
163.5CM
55KG


GONNA SIDESTEP ISN'T HE...
HE'S

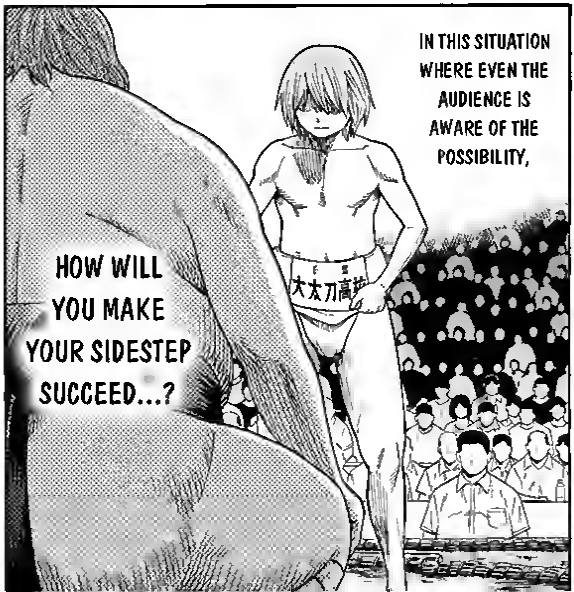
NO WAY. IF HE'S A REAL MAN HE'LL FIGHT HEAD ON!
HE CAN'T SIDESTEP, IT'S A COWARDLY WAY TO WIN.
I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM,
BUT IN THIS SITUATION HE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE
HE'D DIE IF HE WENT HEAD ON WITH THAT.

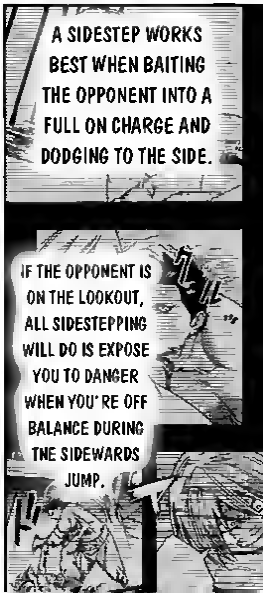
THE SIDESTEP MAY NOT BE A COMMENDABLE ACTION,
BUT IN AN OPEN WEIGHT SPORT LIKE SUMO,
THERE WILL EVENTUALLY BE SITUATIONS LIKE THESE— WHERE YOU ARE CLEARLY OUTCLASSED, BOTH IN PHYSIQUE AND SKILL—
EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT TREND AT LEAST.


GIVE IT YOUR ALL, SHORT GUY!

IT'S WHAT YOU WOULD CALL "ROOTING FOR THE UNDER-DOG"...
WANTING TO ACCEPT THE RESULT A WEAKER FIGHTER HAS ACHIEVED BY BRIDGING THE GAP IN STRENGTH WITH STRATEGY
IS PART OF HUMAN NATURE.

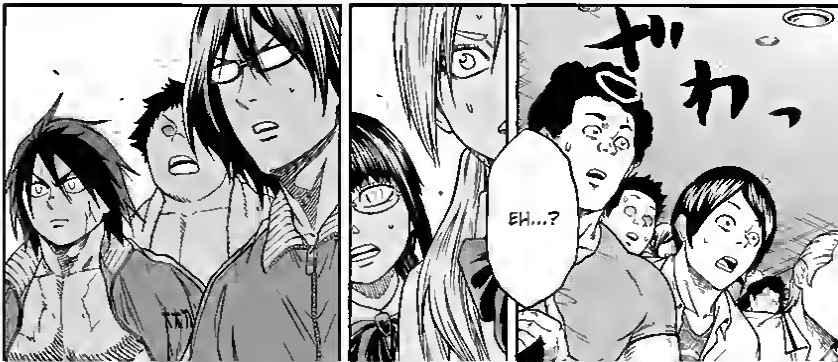
DACHI HIGH HAS TO AVOID RECEIVING TWO CONSECUTIVE LOSSES AT ALL COSTS.
IF MITSUHASHI IS GOING TO USE THAT STRATEGY HE'S BEEN KEEPING HIDDEN, NOW'S THE TIME...
IT'S JUST...
... WHAT WILL YOU DO...?


IN THIS SITUATION WHERE EVEN THE AUDIENCE IS AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY,
HOW WILL YOU MAKE YOUR SIDESTEP SUCCEED...?


A SIDESTEP WORKS BEST WHEN BAITING THE OPPONENT INTO A FULL ON CHARGE AND DODGING TO THE SIDE.
IF THE OPPONENT IS ON THE LOOKOUT, ALL SIDESTEPPING WILL DO IS EXPOSE YOU TO DANGER WHEN YOU'RE OFF BALANCE DURING THE SIDEWARDS JUMP.

NO.
I WAS JUST ANSWERING HIS QUESTIONS...
YESTERDAY, YOU WERE SPEAKING TO MITSUHASHI ABOUT SOMETHING, SANADA-SAN.
WERE YOU GIVING HIM ADVICE OR SOMETHING?
HMM?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
HANDS AT THE READY!
ハッ!
ンー…

!


EH...?

TLN: IN AMATEUR SUMO, THE REFEREE HAS TO GIVE THEIR SIGNAL ON TOP OF BOTH WRESTLERS PLACING THEIR HANDS ON THE GROUND BEFORE THE INITIAL CHARGE CAN COMMENCE. FAILING TO DO SO RESULTS IN A RESTART.

I DID.
ANOTHER FAILED ATTEMPT!
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
HEY, HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING MITSUHASHI!
QUIT FALSE STARTING!
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I...
I NEVER TOLD HIM TO GO THAT FAR...!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING, MITSUHASHI ...!!
ざわ
COACH.
THIS IS..
ざわ
.....
... WHY DID I DO IT...?
IT'S OBVIOUS.
I DID IT
BECAUSE I WAS WEAK.
BECAUSE I WAS WEAK...
I TRIED TO PULL HIM INTO A SITUATION BENEFITING ME OUT OF DESPERATION...

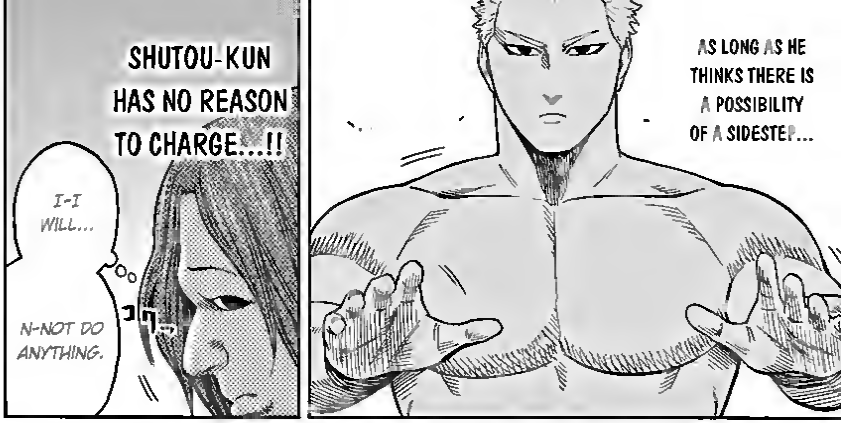
ざわ
ざわ
... IT MAY HAVE BEEN A DISGRACEFUL STRATEGY,
A FAR CRY FROM REGULAR HEAD ON FIGHTS.
BUT I WAS WILLING TO...
PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE TO WIN THAT MATCH...

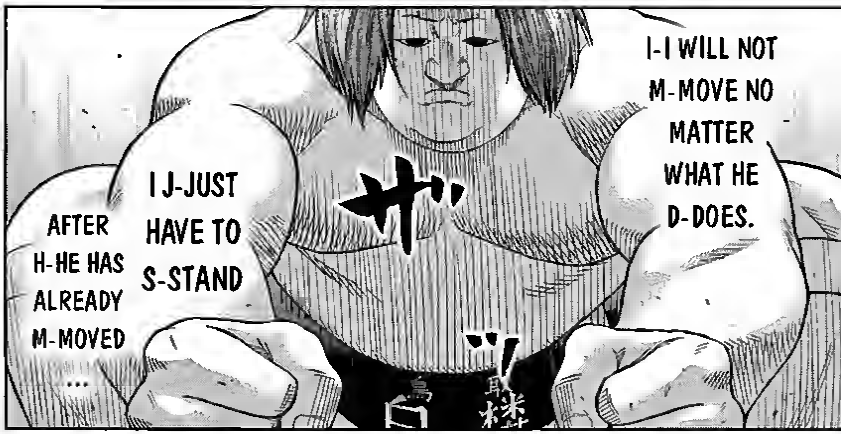
TOUCH THE GROUND WITH BOTH HANDS! GOT IT!?
I STILL WANTED TO WIN...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHERS SAID ABOUT ME

ざわ
... LOOKS LIKE BOTH OF THEM WANT TO CHARGE WITH THEIR OWN TIMINGS
BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS
SO THEY'RE UNABLE TO MATCH EACH OTHER ...
ざわ

START PROPERLY!!
IS HE DOING THAT ON PURPOSE!?
THAT'S DEFINITELY NO MISTAKE!!
HEY! HOW MANY TIMES DOES THAT MAKE!!

DO YOU WANT TO GIVE OFF THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'LL FIGHT HEAD-ON LIKE YOU DID IN THE PRELIMINARIES!?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
SHUTOU!
OUT OF REGARD FOR THE EXCESSIVE DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE... THE AUDIENCE HAD EVEN APPROVED OF THE SIDESTEP.
WHY WOULD YOU MAKE AN ENEMY OUT OF THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE LIKE THIS...!?
W...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MITSUHASHI-KUN...!?





TLN: SEEMS LIKE SHUTOU HAS A STUTTER.

ウ
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……
I TOTALLY …
AGREE WITH YOU.
JUMP BEHIND YOUR OPPONENT DURING THE INITIAL CHARGE!?
… NORMALLY YOU WOULD JUMP SIDEWAYS, BUT
JUMPING BEHIND AN OPPONENT PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS LEADS TO VICTORY IN SUMO SO HE WOULD NEVER ALLOW YOU
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL CONFUSE YOUR OPPONENT FOR AN INSTANT SO THAT THEY CAN'T CALMLY RESPOND TO YOU .
IT'S A PRETTY GOOD STRATEGY
ACCORDING TO THE DATA, THIS SHUTOU GUY PANICS WHEN THINGS DON'T GO HIS WAY
IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO PANIC,
EVEN YOU SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE AT VICTORY.

... WILL THAT
REALLY BE ENOUGH THOUGH...
?
THE COACH IS KIND-HEARTED AFTER ALL
THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT HE WILL MAKE ME DO.
I HAVE TO CREATE IT.
AN ABNORMAL 101ST BOUT THAT I CAN WIN...
NO MATTER THE MEANS...!
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IF I WERE TO FIGHT SHUTOU AS I AM NOW,
I WOULD LOSE 100/100 BOUTS.
THAT'S WHY...

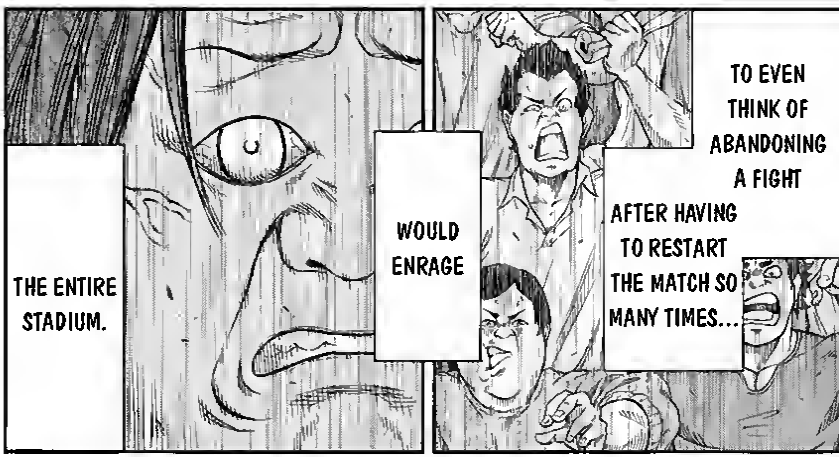
NO MATTER HOW...
YOU WANT TO ROB SHUTOU-SAN OF HIS COMPOSURE...
HOTARU
... YOU'RE INCREDIBLE
IN FACT, I'M SURE IF YOU ASKED ANYONE WHO'S A SERIOUS FIGHTER THEY WOULD ANSWER THE SAME ...
WHAT'S THE THING AN OPPONENT CAN DO TO PISS YOU OFF THE MOST, KUNISAKI-SAN?
ME, HUH? LET'S SEE...
WELL, IN MY CASE
THE THING THAT PISSES US OFF THE MOST...
BEGIN!!
FINALLY WE'VE STARTED

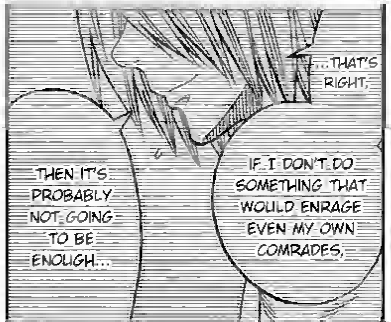
WHA...?

IT WAS NOT PROHIBITED,
HOWEVER ...
IT WAS SOMETHING UNHEARD OF, EVEN IN THE LONG HISTORY OF SUMO...

DON'T HAVE ANY MOTIVATION...
ARE THOSE WHO

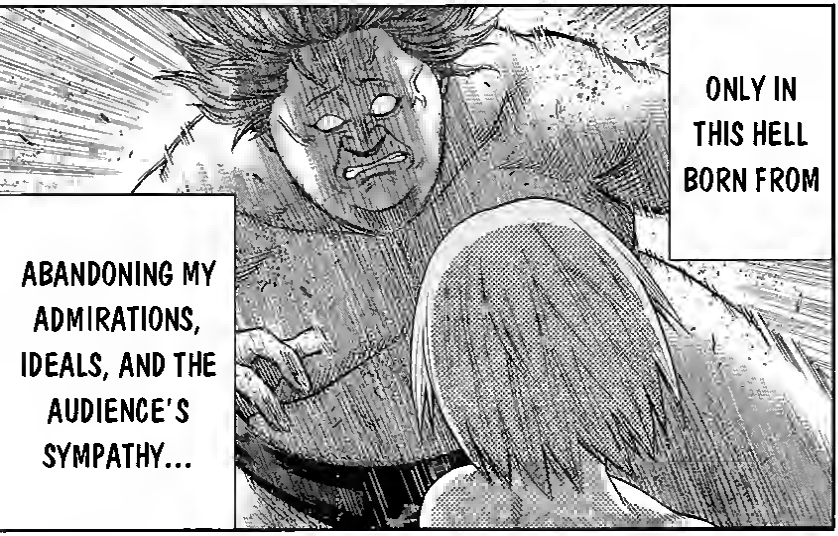
TO WALK AWAY FROM AN OPPONENT WITH YOUR BACK TURNED...

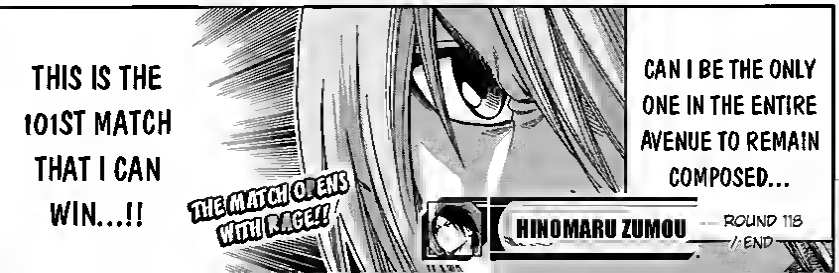

THE ENTIRE STADIUM.
WOULD ENRAGE
TO EVEN THINK OF ABANDONING A FIGHT
AFTER HAVING TO RESTART THE MATCH SO MANY TIMES...


...THAT'S RIGHT.
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD ENRAGE EVEN MY OWN COMRADES,
THEN IT'S PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH...

PLEASE KEEP WHAT I'M PLANNING TO DO
A SECRET FROM THE OTHERS
THEY'D GET ANGRY AT ME

I'M WILLING TO PAY ANY SACRIFICE
TO ASSURE THE TEAM A VICTORY...!
DON'T WORRY, HOTARU.
YOUR COMRADES
ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO WON'T MISTAKE YOUR RESOLVE...!
I'M SORRY FOR DOING ALL THIS...
BUT...


ONLY IN THIS HELL BORN FROM
ABANDONING MY ADMIRATIONS, IDEALS, AND THE AUDIENCE'S SYMPATHY...


CAN I BE THE ONLY ONE IN THE ENTIRE AVENUE TO REMAIN COMPOSED...
THIS IS THE 101ST MATCH THAT I CAN WIN...!!
THE MATCH OPENS WITH RAGE!!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 118
/ END

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
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119 HINOMARU ZUMOU

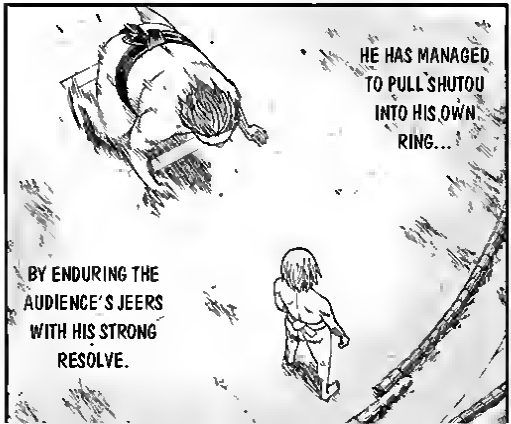
BY KAWADA

KAWADA
THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE CONSIDERED, WORRIED AND MADE SACRIFICES FOR THE BETTER OF THE TEAM...
AS WELL AS GIVING YOUR ALL TO POLISHING THE SUMO THAT BEST BENEFITS US
TAKE PRIDE IN YOURSELF
JUST BEFORE THE DECISIVE MATCH...

Round 119: THE RING OF VICTORY

IT WAS ALL TO ROB THE OPPONENT WHO WAS WARY OF A SIDESTEP...
AND ACTING TOO UNENTHUSIASTIC TO CHARGE ONCE THE MATCH FINALLY BEGIN...
SLIPPING UP SO MANY TIMES...

OF HIS COMPO-SURE...


HE HAS MANAGED TO PULL SHUTOU INTO HIS OWN RING...
BY ENDURING THE AUDIENCE'S JEERS WITH HIS STRONG RESOLVE.

NORMALLY SOMEONE WHO THINKS OF DOING THAT WOULDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH. THEY COULDN'T

.....
THIS WAS MITSUHASHI'S AIM ALL LONG...!!
NO, NOT YET.
IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH.
ALL THIS BUILD UP UNTIL NOW WAS JUST MY FIRST ARROW OF VICTORY...
WOW.
YOU REALLY THINK THIS WILL WORK?
IT WILL, IF YOU CAN PULL IT OFF PROPERLY
AND...
ANYONE WOULD FLINCH IF YOU SUDDENLY DID THIS IN THEIR FACE
IT'S AN EXTREMELY RARE TECHNIQUE, EVEN AMONG PROS, BUT IT'S TOTALLY LEGITIMATE.
THIS IS

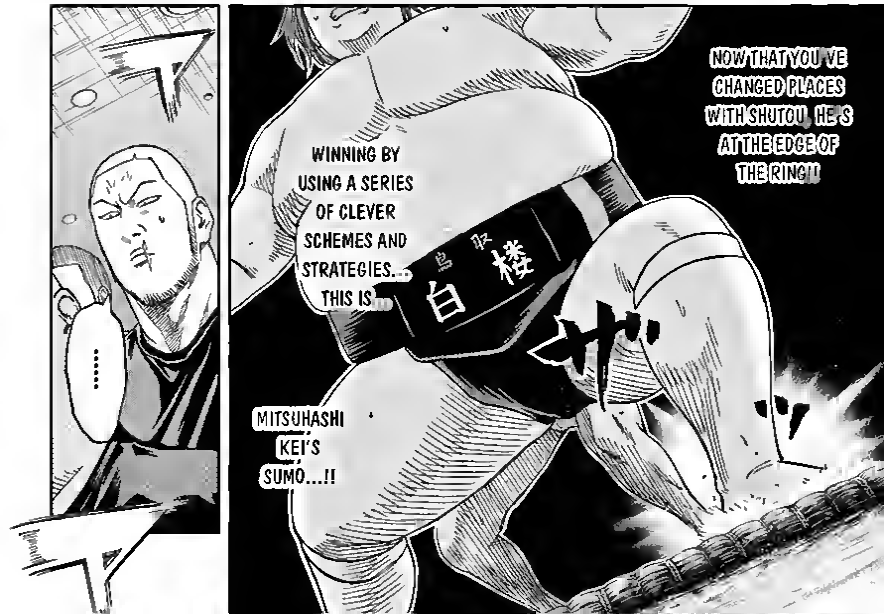
THE SECOND ARROW!!
NEKODAMASHI.

BY CLAPPING BOTH HANDS TOGETHER IN FRONT OF THE OPPONENT'S FACE
THEY WILL SHUT THEIR EYES FOR AN INSTANT IN A FLINCH REFLEX, CREATING AN OPENING.
. . . NOW YOU USE IT...!!
THAT'S RIGHT...
IT ONLY HAS TO BE AN INSTANT.
SHUTOU!!
IF HE LOSES HIS ATTENTION FOR JUST AN INSTANT,
I'LL BE ABLE TO REACH IT...

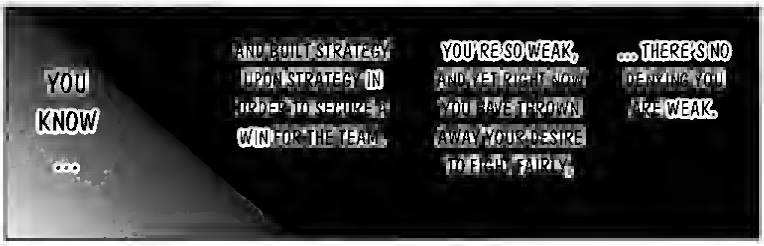
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE CLUMSY,
THESE ARE THE THREE ARROWS...
THE RING OF VICTORY ...!!

I HAVE POLISHED!!
MITSU-HASHI HAS GOTTEN BEHIND HIM...!!

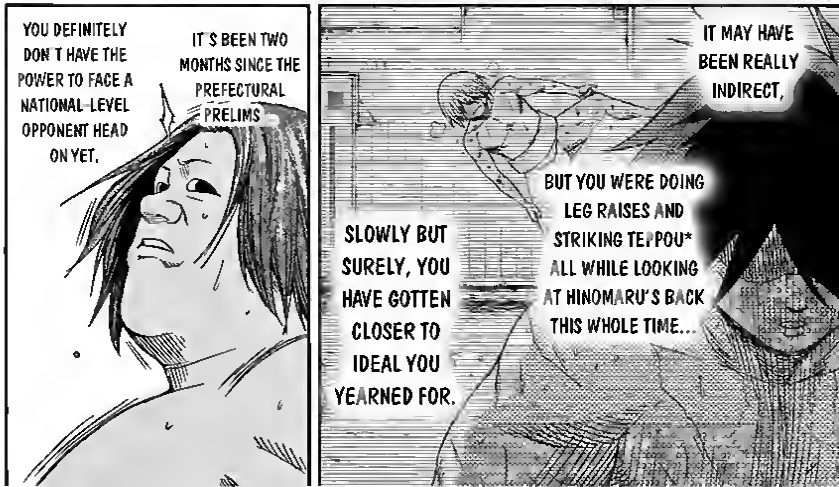
HE'S MADE LEAPS AND BOUNDS...!
IF HE'D USED THE EIGHT BOAT JUMP IMMEDIATELY, HIS OPPONENT MAY HAVE SUSPECTED IT.
HOWEVER WITH THE NEKODAMASHI YOU'VE COMPLETELY ROBBED HIM OF THAT OPPORTUNITY!
MOREOVER


NOW THAT YOU'VE CHANGED PLACES WITH SHUTOU, HE'S AT THE EDGE OF THE RING!!
WINNING BY USING A SERIES OF CLEVER SCHEMES AND STRATEGIES... THIS IS
白桜
MITSUHASHI KEI'S SUMO...!!
.....

IN THE PREFECTURAL PRELIMINARIES, YOU MANAGED TO GET BEHIND MAMIYA FOR A MOMENT AS WELL...
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO STRENGTH TO FOLLOW THROUGH BACK THEN HOWEVER, AND I DON'T BELIEVE HE HAS IT NOW EITHER...
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO...?
... BUT
YOU MAY HAVE TAKEN HIS BACK... BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR STRENGTH...?
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW...?
DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER STRATEGY OR SOMETHING TO MOVE THIS MOUNTAIN OF A PERSON...!?

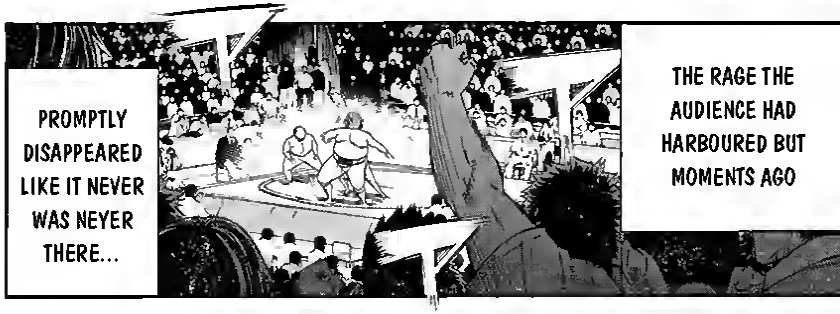

YOU KNOW ...
AND BUILT STRATEGY UPON STRATEGY IN ORDER TO SECURE A WIN FOR THE TEAM.
YOU'RE SO WEAK, AND YET RIGHT NOW YOU HAVE THROWN AWAY YOUR DESIRE TO FIGHT FAIRLY.
... THERE'S NO DENYING YOU'RE WEAK.

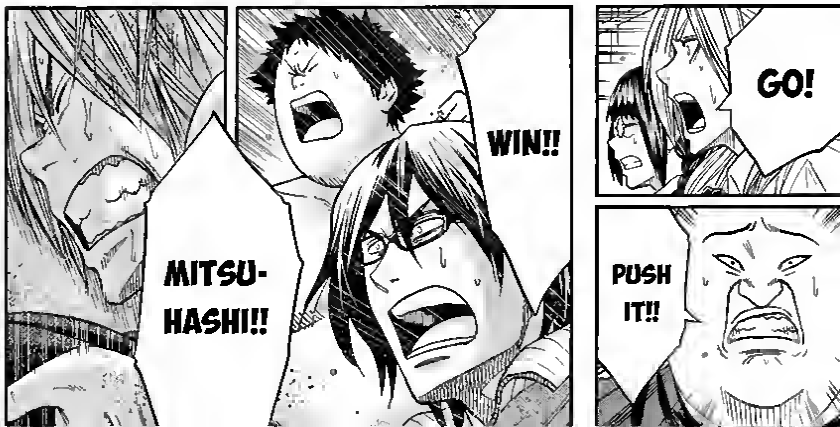
T/N WOODEN POLES WRESTLERS STRIKE FOR PRACTICE.


YOU DEFINITELY DON T HAVE THE POWER TO FACE A NATIONAL-LEVEL OPPONENT HEAD ON YET.
IT S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE THE PREFECTURAL PRELIMS
IT MAY HAVE BEEN REALLY INDIRECT,
BUT YOU WERE DOING LEG RAISES AND STRIKING TEPPOU* ALL WHILE LOOKING AT HINOMARU'S BACK THIS WHOLE TIME...
SLOWLY BUT SURELY, YOU HAVE GOTTEN CLOSER TO IDEAL YOU YEARNED FOR.

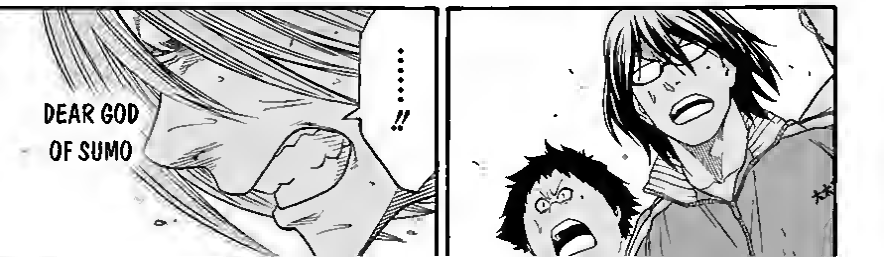
HAS ALLOWED YOU TO TRAIN YOUR BODY TO THE LIMIT,
EVEN SO, THAT DREAM
AND THAT BODY SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO OVERCOME SOME THIN PIECE OF STRAW ROPE...!
WRAAA AAAAH

WHOOA, SHUTOU HAS
LOST HIS BALANCE!!
EXCITED AT SEEING THIS UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS UNFOLDING BEFORE THEIR EYES,


THE RAGE THE AUDIENCE HAD HARBOURED BUT MOMENTS AGO
PROMPTLY DISAPPEARED LIKE IT NEVER WAS NEYER THERE...


GO!
WIN!!
MITSU-HASHI!!
PUSH IT!!

GU
UG
RAH!!


DEAR GOD
OF SUMO
……
!!

I'M SURE YOU MUST DESPISE SOMEONE LIKE ME...

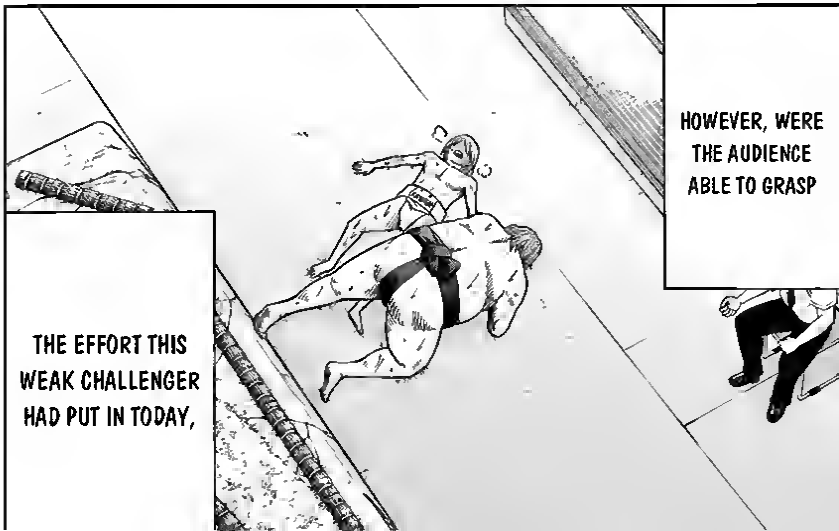
I MEAN, YOU EVEN HATE HINOMARU-SAN OF ALL PEOPLE...

THAT'S WHY I NEVER GAVE A SHIT WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF ME!

I WILL DELIVER THIS ONE VICTORY

NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE THINKS,

DESPITE DABBLING WITH STRATEGIES,
THE MATCH WAS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR MITSUHASHI.


HOWEVER, WERE THE AUDIENCE ABLE TO GRASP
THE EFFORT THIS WEAK CHALLENGER HAD PUT IN TODAY,

IT COULD GO EITHER WAY
WHO WILL IT BE...!?
AS HE FOUGHT FOR VICTORY WITH ALL HIS MIGHT...?
THE WEIGHT ON HIS SHOULDERS, AND HIS TENACITY

THE INCREDIBLE ECHO OF JEERS THAT FILLED THE STADIUM MOMENTS AGO
WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
IN THEIR STEAD...

OODACHI WINS!!
CHEERS OF PRAISE
ENVELOPED HIM FROM ALL AROUND.
YOU'RE AMAZING, SMALL GUY!!
THAT TWIG ACTUALLY DID IT!!
WHOAAA!

H...
HELL~ YEEAAAHHH !!
IT CAN'T BE...
スッ…
THAT HAND INDICATES...
WHA…?
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 119 END

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Scruffy8642

QUALITY CHECKER
Kyou Kai

TYPESETTER
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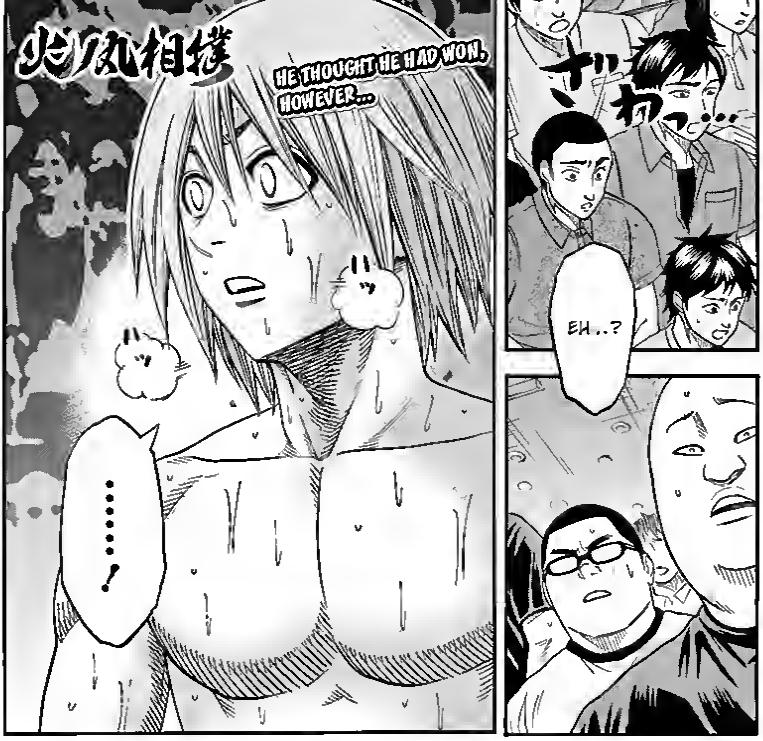
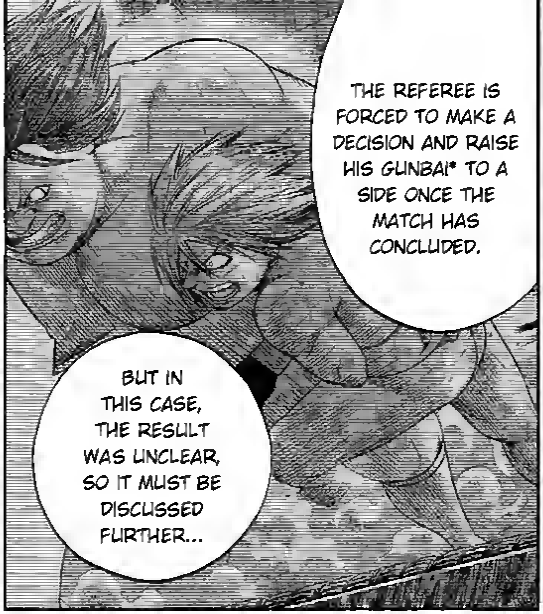
120 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA



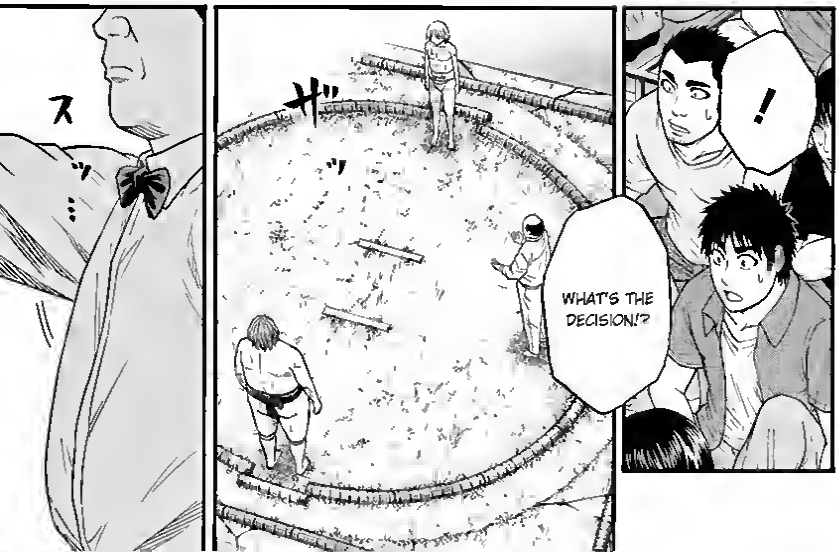
Round 120 **GRATITUDE**


THE REFEREE IS FORCED TO MAKE A DECISION AND RAISE HIS GUNBAI* TO A SIDE ONCE THE MATCH HAS CONCLUDED.
BUT IN THIS CASE, THE RESULT WAS UNCLEAR, SO IT MUST BE DISCUSSED FURTHER...

TN: THE FAN SUMO REFEREE'S HOLD. IT'S USED TO PERFORM PRE-BOUT RITUALS AND TO POINT TO THE WINNING SIDE

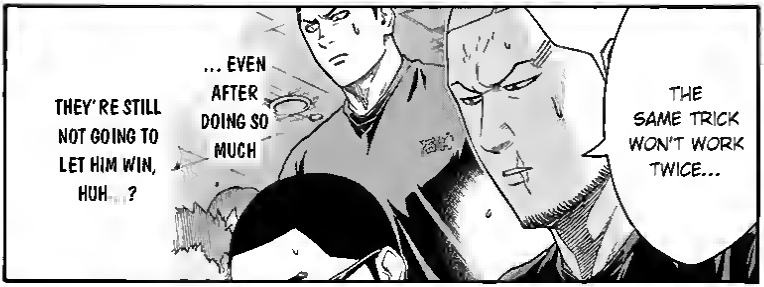
ざわ
ざわ
HOWEVER IF HIS DECISION IS OVERRULED, THEN THE OPPOSITE IS ALSO TRUE...
SO IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT MITSUHASHI-KUN COULD WIN ACCORDING TO THE REFEREE'S INITIAL DECISION...
OF COURSE, THEY JUST WANT TO CONFIRM THE DECISION

PLEASE! STICK WITH THE REFEREE'S DECISION !!!
HAH...
HAH...
THE ONE OUT OF A HUNDRED SITUATION HE CREATED...
DO THEY KNOW JUST HOW MUCH PREPARATION AND EFFORT WENT INTO CREATING THAT...!
MITSUHASHI'S EXHAUSTED NOW... A REMATCH AT THIS POINT WOULD BE THE SAME AS DECLARING HIS LOSS!


WHAT'S THE DECISION!?
!

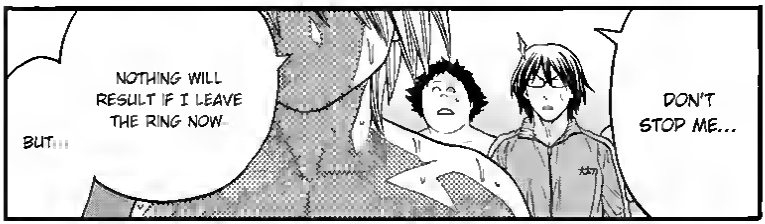
THEY FELL SIMULTA-NEOUSLY!
千葉
大太刀高校
A REMATCH WILL BE HELD!!

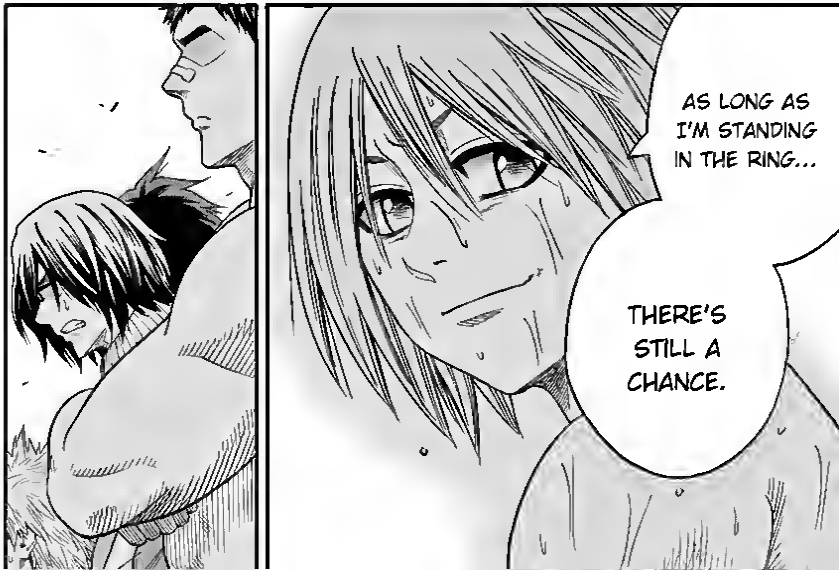
NO WAY...
WHAA- THEY'RE GONNA FIGHT AGAIN!!


THEY'RE STILL NOT GOING TO LET HIM WIN, HUH...?
... EVEN AFTER DOING SO MUCH
THE SAME TRICK WON'T WORK TWICE...

DON'T TELL ME, BACK THEN YOU...
ズ...
MITSU-HASHI ...?
!?

INJURED YOUR LEG ...?


DON'T STOP ME...
NOTHING WILL RESULT IF I LEAVE THE RING NOW...
BUT...

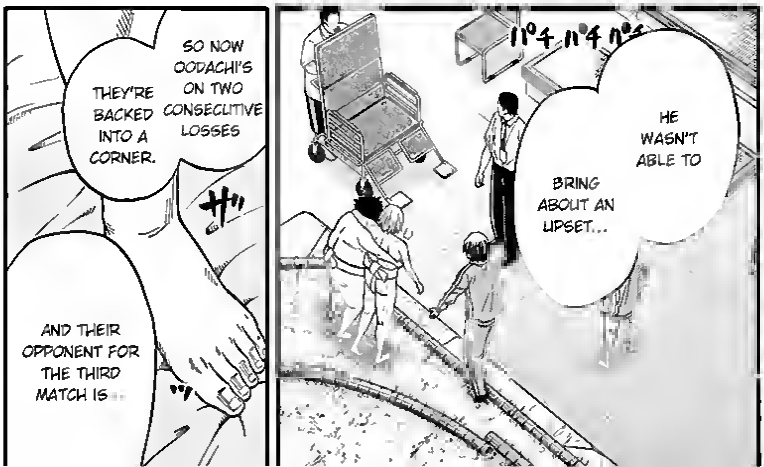

AS LONG AS I'M STANDING IN THE RING...
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE.

HANDS AT THE READY!
HOTARU ...
I WANT TO GET A VICTORY FOR THE TEAM...!
NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO SACRIFICE,
CAN'T EVEN JUMP ANYMORE, YET...
YOU...
BEGIN!

I'M NOT JUST HERE FOR A GOOD TIME, YOU KNOW.
.....
I'M ALSO A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM THAT'S AIMING TO BECOME THE BEST IN JAPAN!
JUST YOU WAIT!
SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE GRATEFUL
FOR THE VICTORY I BRING TO THE TEAM!!
MATCH OVER!

HAKUROU WINS!
SOMEBODY PLEASE GET A STRETCHER!

THE MATCH WASN'T ANYTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT, BUT
.....
HE SURE GAVE IT HIS ALL...
YEAH
IN THE END THOUGH...


HE WASN'T ABLE TO BRING ABOUT AN UPSET...
SO NOW ODACHI'S ON TWO CONSECUTIVE LOSSES
THEY'RE BACKED INTO A CORNER.
AND THEIR OPPONENT FOR THE THIRD MATCH IS...

THE NATIONAL TREASURE

KANOU AKIHIRA.
"OOKANE-HIRA"

BUT OODACHI'S KUNISAKI DEFEATED THE NATIONAL TREASURE "OODENTA", YOU KNOW...
TRUE...
BUT FRANKLY, THERE'S STILL A PECKING ORDER AMONG THE NATIONAL TREASURES
AND IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT ORDER, KANOU'S PRETTY HIGH UP
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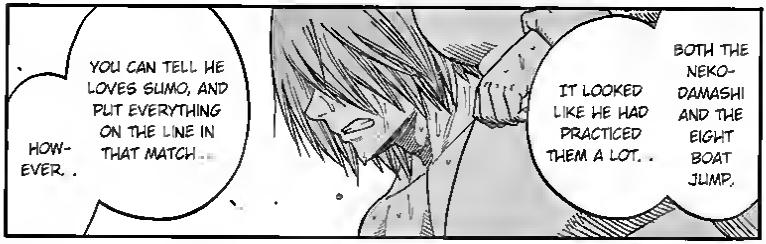
AT THE VICTORY PODIUM... KANOU IS ALWAYS THERE BY TENNOUJI'S SIDE
BOTH OODENTA AND JUZUMARU HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DEFEAT HIM.
HAKUROU'S NUMBER TWO AFTER TENNOUJI IS ALSO THE NUMBER TWO IN THE ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL SUMO LEAGUE.

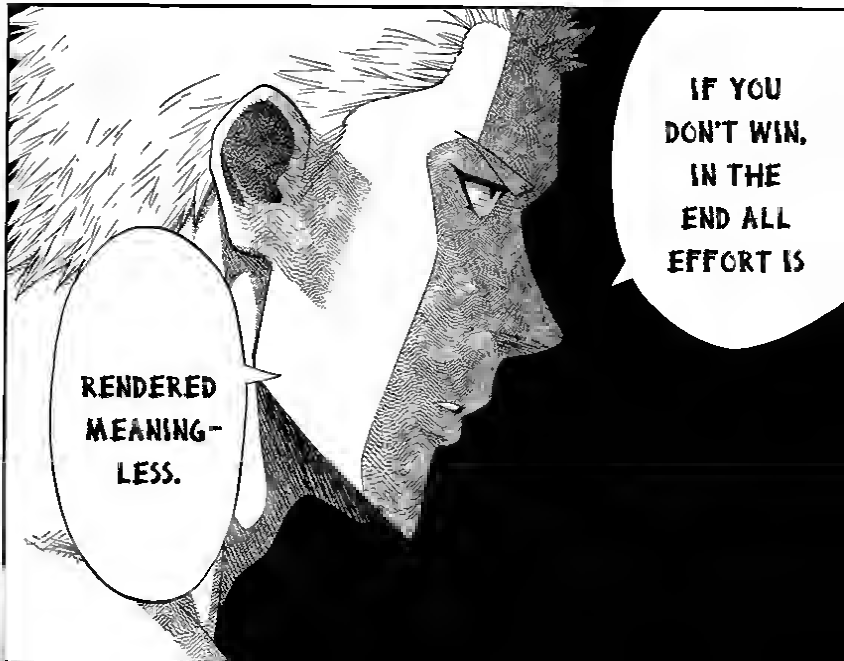
HE'S ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO WILL BE FACING KUSANAGI IN THE INDIVIDUAL DIVISION FINALS THAT WILL BE HELD LATER.
KANOU AND TENNOUJI ARE FAMED AS THE DUEL YOKOZUNA OF THE EAST AND WEST. HIS NATIONAL TREASURE NAME "OOKANEHIRA" ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW.
HONESTLY, I THINK HE WILL BE A TOUGH OPPONENT EVEN FOR KUNISAKI.

TN: BOTH "OOKANEHIRA" AND "SOUJI-KIRI YASUTSUNA" ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE GREATEST JAPANESE SWORDS EVER MADE. NOTE THAT "KUSANAGI NO TSURUGI" IS AN IMPERIAL REGALIA AND CONSIDERED A REIKEN (霊剣): A SWORD USED BY THE GODS AND THEN PASSED ONTO HUMANS.

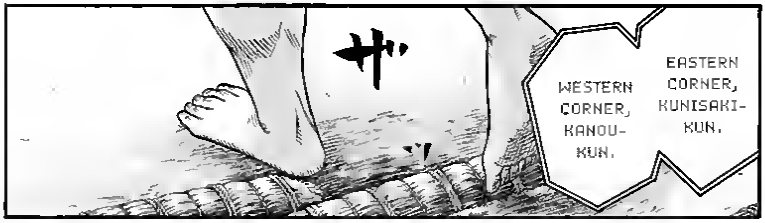
THEY HAVE THIS MANY FIGHTERS OF SUCH A HIGH CLASS...
I GUESS THIS IS AS FAR AS OODACHI GOES...
がや
YOU WON, SO WHY THE LONG FACE, SHUTOU?
!

THOSE FALSE STARTS WERE THE RESULT
OF A COMPLETE BEGINNER DOING HIS BEST TO COME UP WITH AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY


BOTH THE NEKO-DAMASHI AND THE EIGHT BOAT JUMP.
IT LOOKED LIKE HE HAD PRACTICED THEM A LOT. .
YOU CAN TELL HE LOVES SUMO, AND PUT EVERYTHING ON THE LINE IN THAT MATCH...
HOW-EVER. .


IF YOU DON'T WIN, IN THE END ALL EFFORT IS
RENDERED MEANING-LESS.

EFFORT IS SOMETHING THAT IS ONLY APPRECIATED WHEN YOU WIN
THAT'S WHY, REGARDLESS OF THE PATH,
THAT OF THE VICTORS IS ALWAYS CORRECT.
YOU WON.
YOU SHOULD JUST BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF AND REJOICE.
ポン
THIRD MATCH—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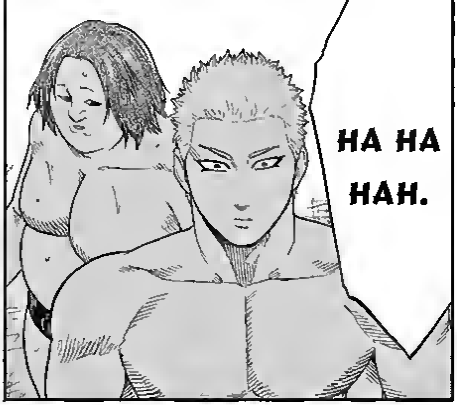
WESTERN CORNER, KANOU-KUN.
EASTERN CORNER, KUNISAKI-KUN.

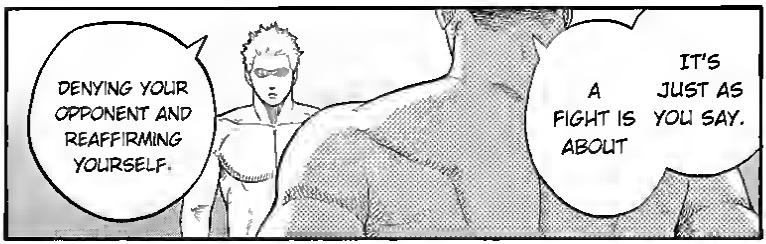
I'M SO SORRY...!
SORRY ...
I RESORTED TO SUCH SHAMEFUL TACTICS, AND YET...
SORRY GUYS...
HAH..
HAH...
千
大太刀
千葉
大太刀高校

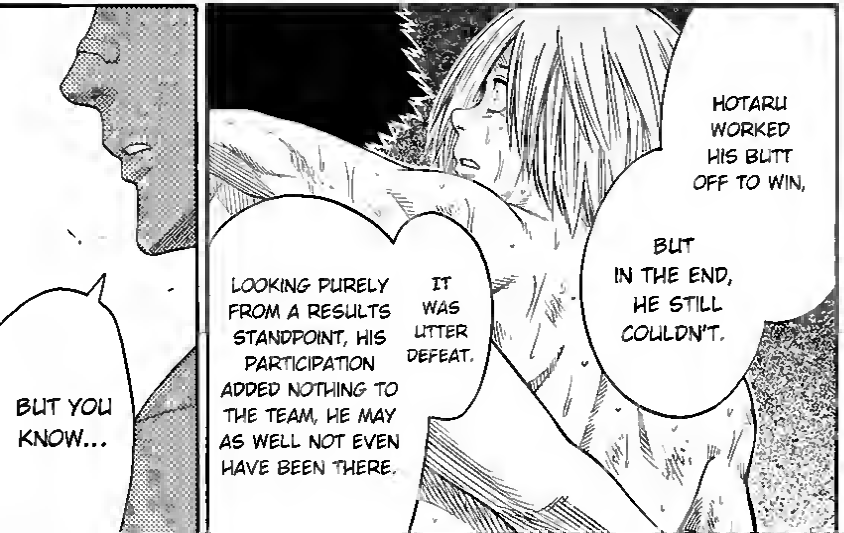

HA HA
HAH.

HA
HAH.

YOU COULDN'T WIN IN THE END, COULD YOU HOTARU!
HA HA
HA HAH.

I HEARD YOUR RAMBLE LOUD AND CLEAR
H-HEY YOU!
YOU'RE IN THE RING, YOU KNOW!
I'VE GOT GOOD EARS
ざわ
ざわ
…?


IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
A FIGHT IS ABOUT
DENYING YOUR OPPONENT AND REAFFIRMING YOURSELF.


HOTARU WORKED HIS BUTT OFF TO WIN,
BUT IN THE END, HE STILL COULDN'T.
IT WAS UTTER DEFEAT.
LOOKING PURELY FROM A RESULTS STANDPOINT, HIS PARTICIPATION ADDED NOTHING TO THE TEAM, HE MAY AS WELL NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN THERE.
BUT YOU KNOW...

AFTER WATCHING HIM FROM THE SIDELINES ALL THIS TIME,
I ABSOLUTELY DON'T THINK THAT ALL THAT EFFORT
WAS MEANING-LESS.
AND I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO SAY IT WAS.

YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.
HOTARU,
TO BE A COMPLETE AMATEUR,
AND YET HOPE TO WIN AGAINST THE BEST TEAM IN JAPAN,
REGARDLESS OF THE DISGRACEFUL ACTS YOU MUST COMMIT TO ACHIEVE THAT
I WONDER IF I COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME IN YOUR POSITION...?
IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES,
I WONDER IF I WOULD BE ABLE TO STRIVE FOR VICTORY
AS SHAMELESSLY AS YOU HAVE DONE?

I'M A GENIUS.
UNTIL NOW, WINNING HAS COME TO ME AS EASY AS BREATHING.
BUT TODAY, HOTARU, YOU HAVE REMINDED ME OF THE WEIGHT
OF A SINGLE VICTORY,
AND
HOW AWESOME PEOPLE LOOK WHEN THEY GO ALL OUT
WITHOUT REGARD FOR THEIR APPEARANCE.
DACHI HIGH'S IN A SITUATION OF COMPLETE DESPAIR RIGHT NOW.
BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA GIVE UP.
WE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DENY HIS EFFORT...
YOU'RE THE SAME AREN'T YOU.
YOU DON'T WANT TO THINK TENNOUJI'S PATH WAS WRONG JUST BECAUSE HE LOST.
YOU MUST BE BURNING UP INSIDE FROM IT.
HINOMARU'S PATH. HOTARU'S PATH.
NEITHER IS MEANINGLESS,
AND I WILL

PROVE THAT TO YOU BY WHOOPING YOUR ASS
WITH THIS PASSION HOTARU HAS GIVEN ME!
A DECLARATION OF WAR FOR A FRIEND!! NEXT ISSUE, A CENTRE COLOUR!!!

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Scruffy8642

QUALITY CHECKER
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READ FIRST AT OUR SITE TO SUPPORT US. THANK YOU!

PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING THIS MANGA TO SUPPORT THE AUTHOR WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY!

121 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

火ノ丸相撲

ひのまるずもう

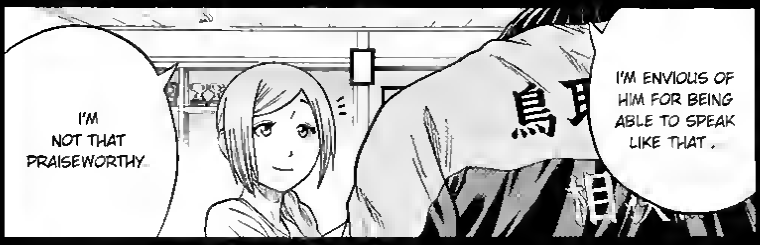
THESE SHOULDERS BEAR THE RESOLVE OF HIS COMRADE!!

Round 121: FEARLESS

KAWADA

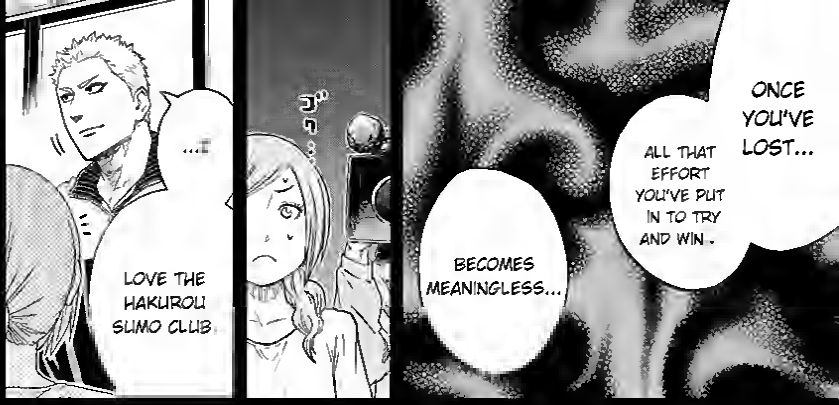
THE SECRET TO HAKUROU'S STRENGTH IS FINALLY REVEALED...
YES!
鳥取白樓
...THE SECRET TO MY STRENGTH...?
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HAKUROU'S STRENGTH, YOU AND TENNOUJI FORM THE PEERLESS TWIN JEWELS OF THE TEAM,
AS THE NATIONAL TREASURE "OOKANEHIRA".
I THINK YOU PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THAT STRENGTH, KANOU AKIRA-KUN.
JUST LIKE TENNOUJI.
DO YOU ALSO PUT YOURSELF THROUGH RIGOROUS TRAINING
DUE TO YOUR LOVE OF SUMO?

THAT'S SUCH A SHIDOU-LIKE THING TO SAY...
"SO I'M THE ONE WHO TRAINS THE MOST", HUH?
"I'M THE ONE WHO LOVES SUMO THE MOST"
.....


I'M NOT THAT PRAISEWORTHY.
I'M ENVIOUS OF HIM FOR BEING ABLE TO SPEAK LIKE THAT.

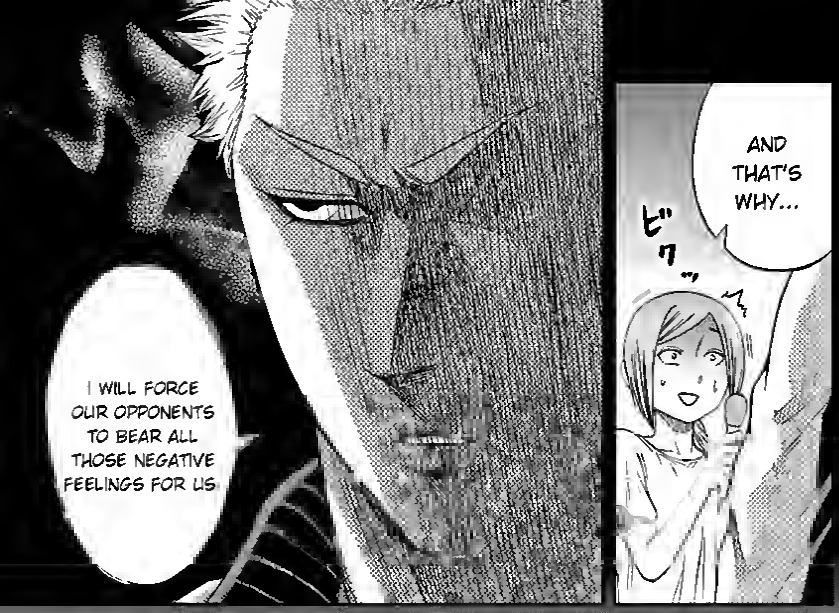
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WATCHING ALL THIS TIME...
THAT'S IT REALLY.
I JUST HATE...
LOSING.

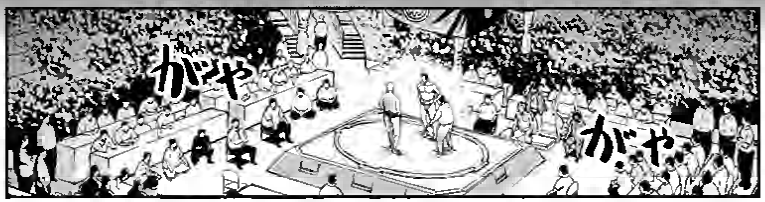
I'VE STOOD BY MY FATHER, THE COACH'S SIDE SINCE BEFORE
HAKUROU'S SIX TIME CONSECUTIVE CHAMPION-SHIPS...
AND I HAVEN'T JUST BEEN WATCHING HAKUROU
I'VE ALSO SEEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE THAT FOUGHT THEM,
LIKE LOSING
AND THE MOMENT THEIR DREAMS ARE CRUSHED...
REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH EFFORT YOU MAY PUT IN OVER YOUR THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL
IT CAN ALL END IN AN INSTANT.
WITH YOU STILL NOT STANDING A CHANCE AT YOUR FULL STRENGTH.
SUMO REALLY IS... SUCH A CRUEL SPORT...


ONCE YOU'VE LOST...
ALL THAT EFFORT YOU'VE PUT IN TO TRY AND WIN.
BECOMES MEANINGLESS...
ゴク…
...!
LOVE THE HAKUROU SUMO CLUB

I RESPECT THESE GUYS WHO LOVE SUMO
FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS.
I LOVE THEM.
I DON'T WANT THESE GUYS TO EXPERIENCE THE AWFUL FEELINGS THAT COME WITH LOSS

Haahahaha
THAT'S WHY I TRAIN LIKE MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE
WELL. I GUESS I'M STILL ONLY SECOND TO SHIDOU IN THAT REGARD.


I WILL FORCE OUR OPPONENTS TO BEAR ALL THOSE NEGATIVE FEELINGS FOR US
ビクッ
AND THAT'S WHY...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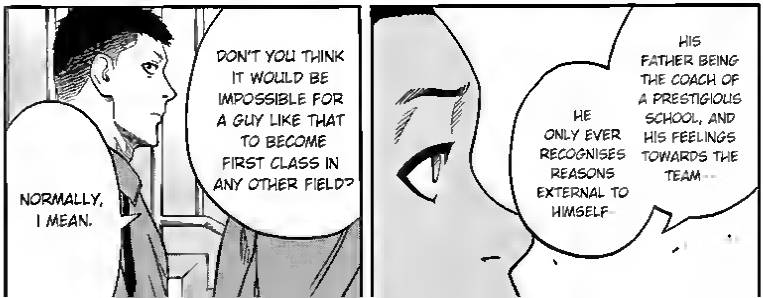
I HATE HIM.
YOU SEE THE INTERVIEW?
HE RAMBLED ON ABOUT HIS COACH AND THE TEAM,
BUT IN THE END, HE NEVER ADMITTED IT HIMSELF.

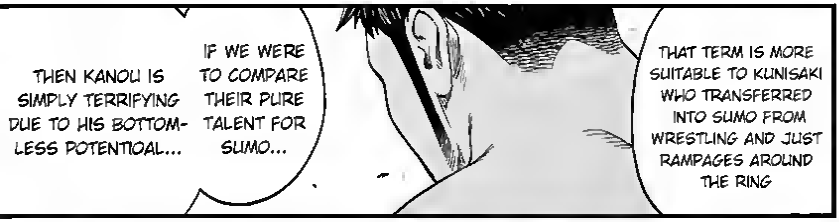
I WONDER IF THAT KANOU GUY WILL LOSE.
EH?

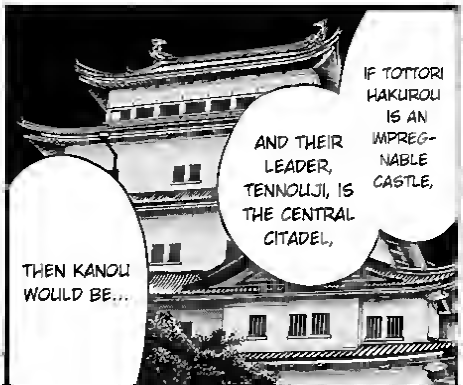
!
I WONDER IF HE EVEN LIKES SUMO,
THAT KANOU.

BUT HE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT'S DIFFERENT...
YOU CAN TELL THAT AT THE ROOT OF IT ALL, THEY JUST LOVE SUMO FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS
ALL THE OTHER NATIONAL TREASURES; TENNOUJI, SOUSUKE, ONIMARU..
HE'S A CREEPY ONE.


NORMALLY, I MEAN.
DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GUY LIKE THAT TO BECOME FIRST CLASS IN ANY OTHER FIELD?
HE ONLY EVER RECOGNISES REASONS EXTERNAL TO HIMSELF...
HIS FATHER BEING THE COACH OF A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL, AND HIS FEELINGS TOWARDS THE TEAM...

YET HE IS STRONG, HE'S EVEN A DAMN
"NATIONAL TREASURE."
IS HE JUST A "GENIUS?"
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...


THAT TERM IS MORE SUITABLE TO KUNISAKI WHO TRANSFERRED INTO SUMO FROM WRESTLING AND JUST RAMPAGES AROUND THE RING
IF WE WERE TO COMPARE THEIR PURE TALENT FOR SUMO...
THEN KANOU IS SIMPLY TERRIFYING DUE TO HIS BOTTOMLESS POTENTIOAL...


IF TOTTORI HAKUROU IS AN IMPREGNABLE CASTLE,
AND THEIR LEADER, TENNOUJI, IS THE CENTRAL CITADEL,
THEN KANOU WOULD BE...

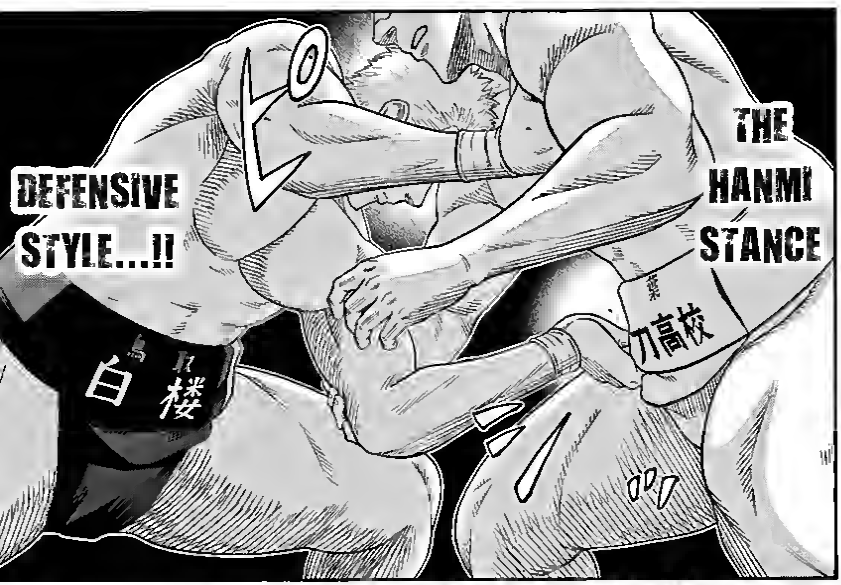
KANOU'S IN THE THIRD MATCH.
IT'S HAKUROU'S GOLDEN RELAY...

THE TALL AND POWERFUL CASTLE GATES
THAT OVERWHELM INTRUDERS WITH DESPAIR...!

IT'S HIS JOB TO PLUCK OFF THE FAINT HOPE OF TRYING TO MAKE A COMEBACK FROM TWO LOSSES
AND TO STOP THEM DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS AND DELIVER THE THIRD LOSS.

KANOU'S ADVANTAGE WON'T BUDGE EASILY, HUH...?
AS LONG AS KANOU IS CAREFUL OF THE MOBILITY KUNISAKI'S SO PROUD OF, KUNISAKI WILL BE AT A LOSS.
KUNISAKI'S BACKED INTO A CORNER. IT MUST BE HARD FOR HIM TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS SITUATION...
BEGIN!!

WHOA!!
SO SHARP!!



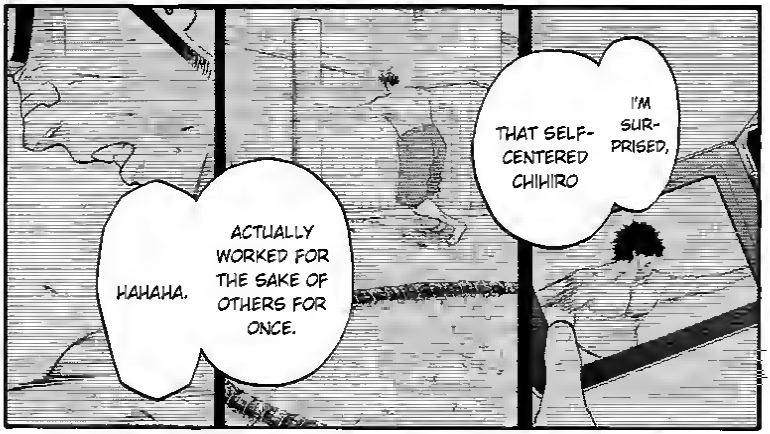
T/N: A STANCE WITH LEGS IN AN L-SHAPE, WITH THE FRONT LEG BENT, AND THE BACK LEG EXTENDED

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME AT THIS DISTANCE
THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE.
AND THE SPACE IT CREATES ALLOWS HIM TO THROW AT WILL
HE ENDURES THE OPPONENT'S STRENGTH WITH HIS RIGHT LEG

WHA...
THIS TRAJECTORY AND STRENGTH
FAR OUT
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH SHAME YOU CAN HAVE,

THIS GUY...!
GUH...
INCREDIBLE
SERIOUSLY. HE ONLY FOUGHT THE GUY TWO DAYS AGO, AND ONCE AT THAT, YET...
...NO.
FLASH OF STRIKES ...!!!
NATIONAL TREASURE EATER...
チッ
THOSE ARE OO-DENTA'S

HE'S PROFICIENT IN THOSE STRIKES AND THEY HAVE FORM.
THAT MEANS HE'S BEEN TRAINING LIKE MAD THESE PAST TWO DAYS TO MAKE THEM HIS OWN.


I'M SURPRISED, THAT SELF-CENTERED CHIHIRO
ACTUALLY WORKED FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS FOR ONCE.
HAHAHA.

KUH...
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY..
HE'S IN A SITUATION WHERE IT'S OVER IF HE LOSES...
SO HOW IS HE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH AN AUDACIOUS ATTACK?!

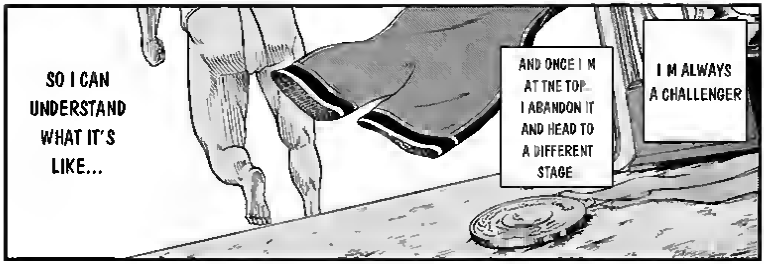
QUIT SHITTING YOURSELF,
NUMBER 2.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT—
UNTIL NOW, YOU HAVE ONLY FOUGHT IN SITUATIONS WHERE YOU WERE ASSURED VICTORY

IN MY OPINION, YOU'RE
FULL OF SORROW

KANOU... THERE'S NO DOUBT YOU'RE STRONG
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING THE BEST SUMO CLUB IN JAPAN FOR A LONG TIME I GUESS THEIR STRENGTH RUBBED OFF ON YOU— BUT YOU KNOW...

YOU'RE MORE AFRAID OF LOSING
THAN ANYONE


SO I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE...
AND ONCE I'M AT THE TOP I ABANDON IT AND HEAD TO A DIFFERENT STAGE
I'M ALWAYS A CHALLENGER

HE UNDERSTOOD MORE THAN YOU OR I
...THAT'S SOMETHING

BEING RECKLESS AND EXPLORING UNKNOWN TERITORY,
ARE THE TERRIFYING KINDS OF THINGS CHALLENGERS HAVE TO EMBRACE,
OTHERWISE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO BECOME STRONGER.

I'LL SHOW YOU, KANOU
BUT WE DON'T SHY AWAY FROM IT
EVERYONE'S AFRAID OF LOSING.
AND WHOSE EFFORT YOU CALLED MEANINGLESS.
THE WEAK GUY YOU WROTE OFF
THE BOTTOMLESS STRENGTH OF US IDIOTS WHO REFUSE TO KNOW THEIR PLACE!!
NEXT ISSUE... THE FIERCE FIGHTING PICKS UP THE PACE!!
火ノ丸相撲
第121番 おわり

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Scruffy8642

QUALITY CHECKER
Kyou Kai

TYPESETTER
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122 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

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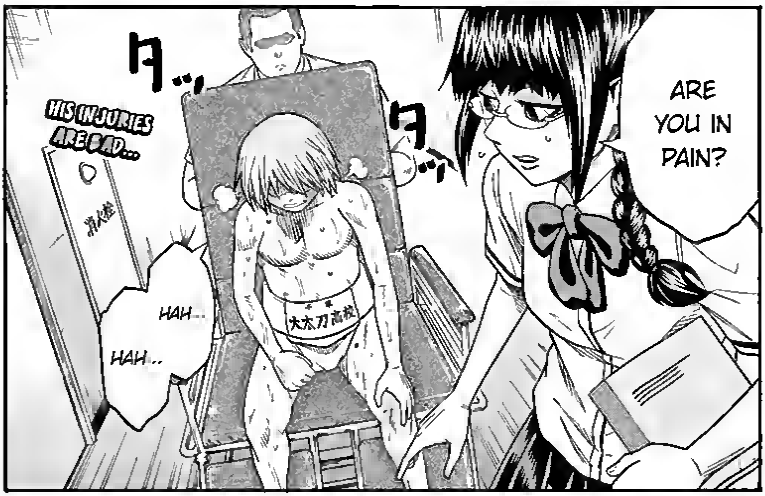
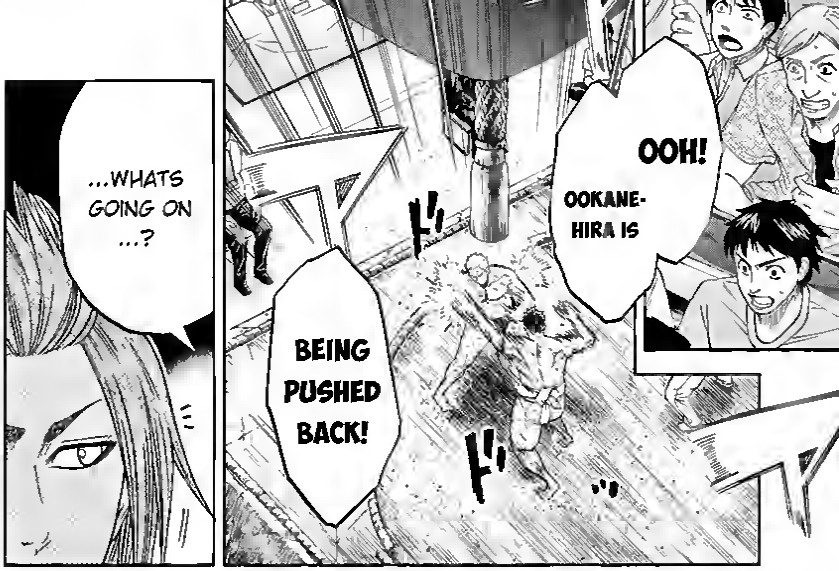
BROUGHT TO YOU BY FALLEN ANGELS

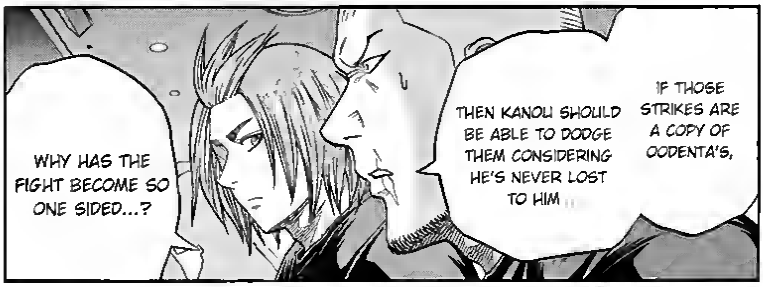


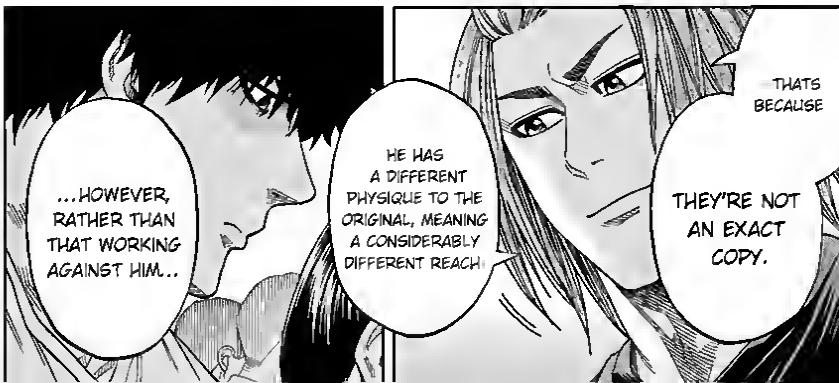
Round 122: AWAKENING

IT'S A SHAME.
YOU WERE SO CLOSE.
YOUR SUMO WAS AMAZING.
SURE IT MAY HAVE BEEN DISRESPECTFUL ...BUT
I CAN SEE THAT YOU WEREN'T MAKING LIGHT OF YOUR OPPONENTS OR SUMO ITSELF...
THAT'S WHY I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.
I'LL RESPOND TO THAT WILLPOWER
YOU JUST DISPLAYED!

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO COMPLAIN...
EVERYONE'S STILL FIGHTING...
THEY'LL BE FINE
I'M SURE OF IT
.....
THEY'RE STRONG AFTER ALL...!
白桜


...WHATS GOING ON ...?
BEING PUSHED BACK!
OOKANE-HIRA IS
OOH!

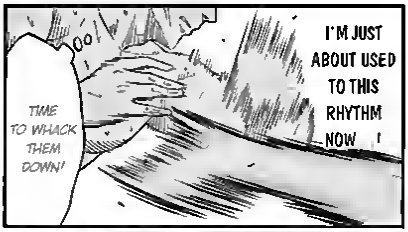

WHY HAS THE FIGHT BECOME SO ONE SIDED...?
THEN KANOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DODGE THEM CONSIDERING HE'S NEVER LOST TO HIM
IF THOSE STRIKES ARE A COPY OF OODENTA'S,


...HOWEVER, RATHER THAN THAT WORKING AGAINST HIM..
HE HAS A DIFFERENT PHYSIQUE TO THE ORIGINAL, MEANING A CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT REACH
THATS BECAUSE
THEY'RE NOT AN EXACT COPY.

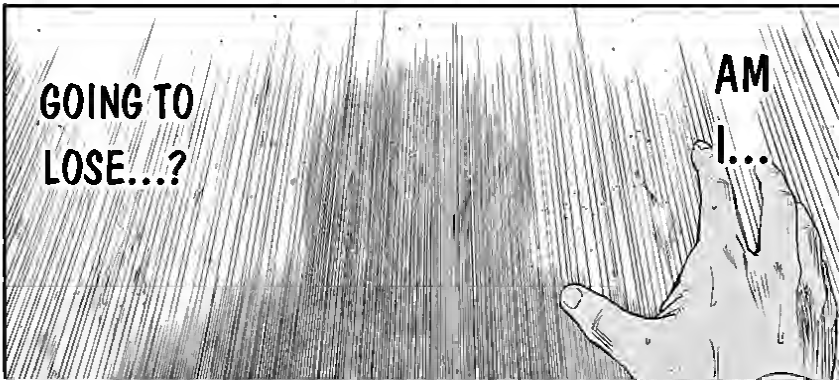
KUNISAKI IS ABLE TO STRIKE FASTER AND HE HAS HIS OWN UNIQUE RHYTHM.
THOSE STRIKES ARE ALREADY,
UNDENIABLY A CHIHIRO SPECIAL.

KUH...
CALM DOWN... HE'S JUST USING SOMETHING I DIDN'T EXPECT.
THEY MAY BE FASTER THAN OODENTA'S BUT THEY LOSE IN POWER...

!!

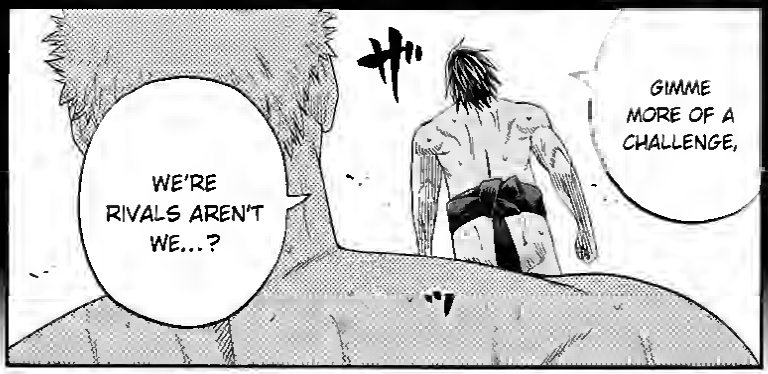

I'M JUST ABOUT USED TO THIS RHYTHM NOW !
TIME TO WHACK THEM DOWN!

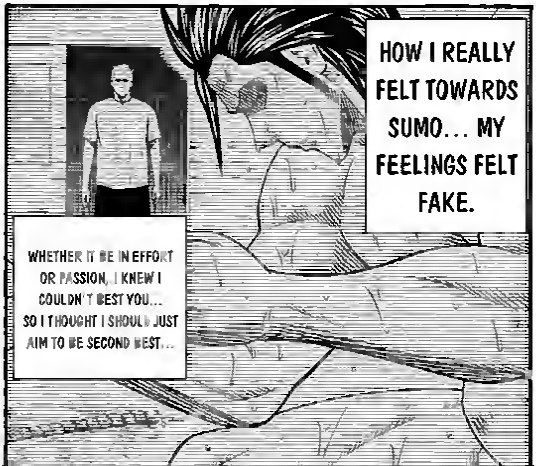
T/N: LIGHTNING



ONE YEAR AGO
TENNOUJI HAS BECOME THE HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA FOR A SECOND YEAR RUNNING...!!
IT'S OVER! HE DOES IT AGAIN!!
I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE THIS YEAR EITHER...
HAH
HAH
HAHAH
CANTCHA FIGHT SERIOUSLY WHEN IT'S AGAINST YA COMRADES,
AKI?
!

YOU'VE GOTTEN USED TA LOSIN' TO ME.
THE KANOU I FOUGHT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WHEN I WAS A CHALLENGER TO YA THRONE
WAS MUCH MORE DAZZLIN'.

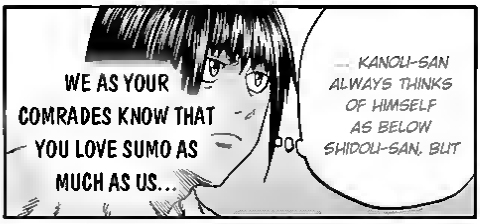

WE'RE RIVALS AREN'T WE...?
GIMME MORE OF A CHALLENGE,

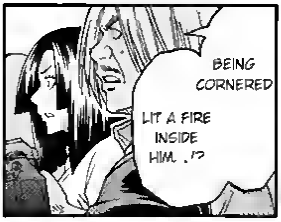

WHETHER IT BE IN EFFORT OR PASSION, I KNEW I COULDN'T BEST YOU... SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD JUST AIM TO BE SECOND BEST...
HOW I REALLY FELT TOWARDS SUMO... MY FEELINGS FELT FAKE.

YOU GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT, SHIDOU...
YOU COMING TO HAKUROU... AND FIGHTING ALONGSIDE ME AS A COMRADE...
MADE ME REALISE...

BEING SECOND IN LINE TO SHIDOU IS...
HOWEVER...
AREN'T I PATHETIC... LAUGH AT ME IF YOU WANT.
SHAAH!!
THE PETTY PRIDE OF THIS PATHETIC MAN...!!
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO ANYONE ASIDE SHIDOU...
KUNISAKI!

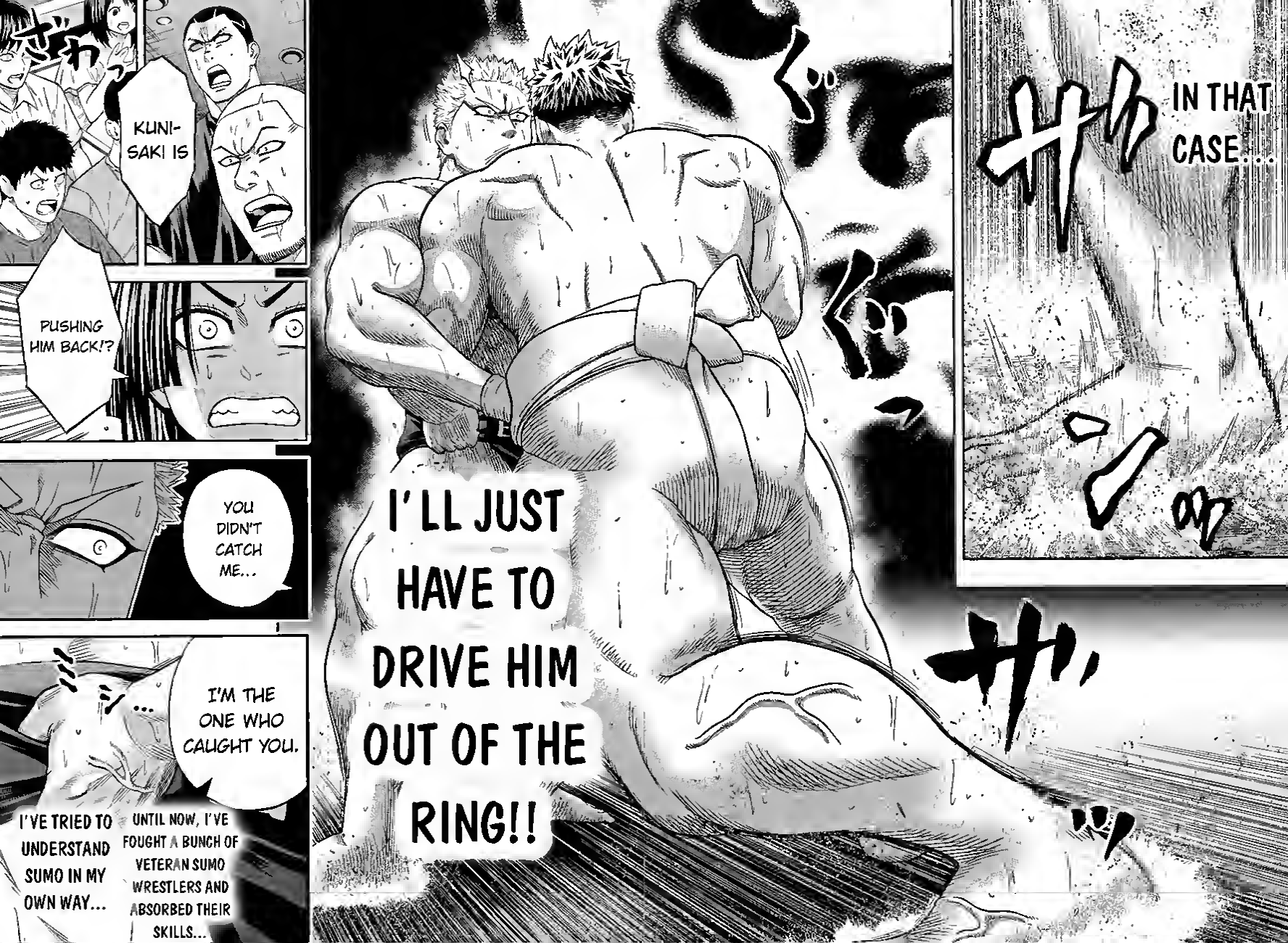
I WON'T LOSE TO NEITHER
KUSA-NAGI NOR YOU!!


WE AS YOUR COMRADES KNOW THAT YOU LOVE SUMO AS MUCH AS US...
... KANOU-SAN ALWAYS THINKS OF HIMSELF AS BELOW SHIDOU-SAN, BUT

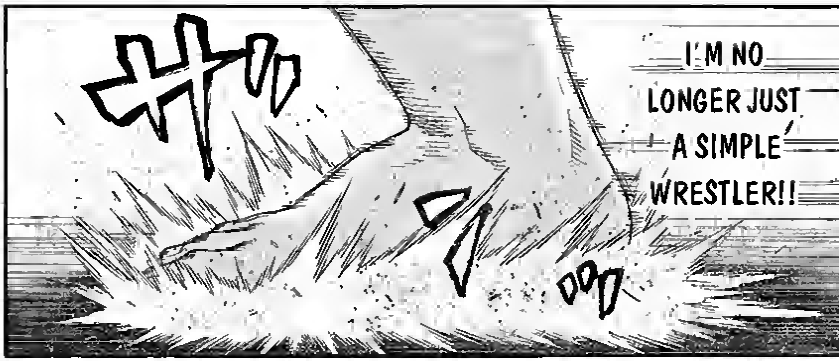

BEING CORNERED LIT A FIRE INSIDE HIM. .!?

FIRMLY GRASPED ON EACH OTHER'S BELT!!
THEY'RE CHEST TO CHEST WITH THEIR HANDS

HE'S GOT A COMPLETE HOLD ON YOU!
AT THAT DISTANCE YOU CAN'T MAKE USE OF YOUR MOBILITY!
THIS IS BAD, KUNISAKI...
REQUIRE A CERTAIN DISTANCE TO USE
WHEN THEY'RE BOTH LOCKED IN A GRAPPLE LIKE THIS,
BUT LEG GRABS AND TRICKY THROWS LIKE TASUKIZORI*
THRUSTS AND PUSHES ARE A GIVEN,
*TN AT THE END OF CHAPTER.
I DON'T KNOW ANY THROWS I CAN USE FROM THIS POSITION...
.....
EVEN KUNISAKI DOESN'T HAVE ANY EFFECTIVE MOVES TO USE AGAINST KANOU...
WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THIS SITUATION ...!!
ざわ
ざわ

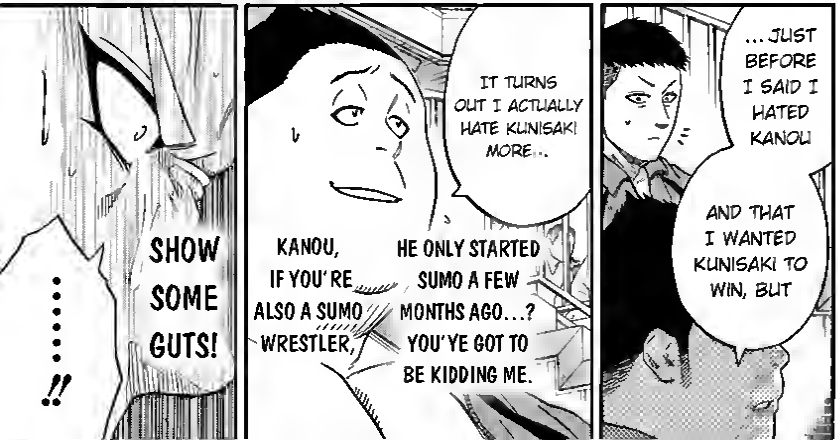

KUNI-SAKI IS
PUSHING HIM BACK!?
YOU DIDN'T CATCH ME...
I'M THE ONE WHO CAUGHT YOU.
I'VE TRIED TO UNDERSTAND SUMO IN MY OWN WAY...
UNTIL NOW, I'VE FOUGHT A BUNCH OF VETERAN SUMO WRESTLERS AND ABSORBED THEIR SKILLS...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DRIVE HIM OUT OF THE RING!!
IN THAT CASE...

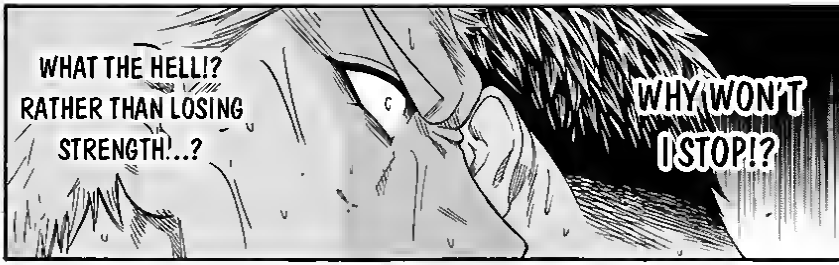
WHEN I STAND IN THE SUMO RING,
WHEN COMPARED TO YOU GUYS, I'M CERTAINLY LACKING IN EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER

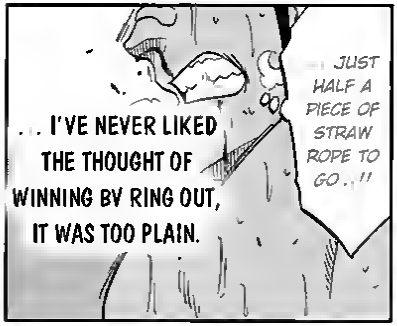

I'M NO LONGER JUST A SIMPLE WRESTLER!!

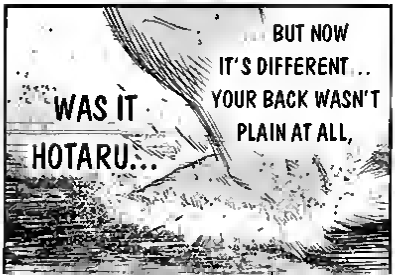
BUT NOW HE'S DIFFERENT ...!
THEIR GRAPPLES AND PHYSIQUES ARE EQUAL!
THE STEP HE JUST TOOK, WAS A STEP AS A SUMO WRESTLER ...!
WITHOUT REGARD FOR EXPERIENCE OR ACHIEVEMENTS...
IF KUNISAKI HAD BEEN IN THIS SITUATION BEFORE NOW,
HE WOULD HAVE DONE EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO CREATE SOME SPACE .
IT WAS HIS FIXATION IN HIS OWN CONFIDENCE AS A WRESTLER THAT REFUSED TO LET HIM DEFEAT AN OPPONENT ANY OTHER WAY...

A SIMPLE CLASH OF WILLS
BETWEEN FELLOW WRESTLERS...!!


...JUST BEFORE I SAID I HATED KANOU
AND THAT I WANTED KUNISAKI TO WIN, BUT
IT TURNS OUT I ACTUALLY HATE KUNISAKI MORE...
KANOU, IF YOU'RE ALSO A SUMO WRESTLER,
HE ONLY STARTED SUMO A FEW MONTHS AGO...? YOU'YE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
SHOW SOME GUTS!
.....!!


WHAT THE HELL!? RATHER THAN LOSING STRENGTH!..?
WHY WON'T I STOP!?


...I'VE NEVER LIKED THE THOUGHT OF WINNING BY RING OUT, IT WAS TOO PLAIN.
...JUST HALF A PIECE OF STRAW ROPE TO GO..!!


WAS IT HOTARU...
...BUT NOW IT'S DIFFERENT... YOUR BACK WASN'T PLAIN AT ALL,

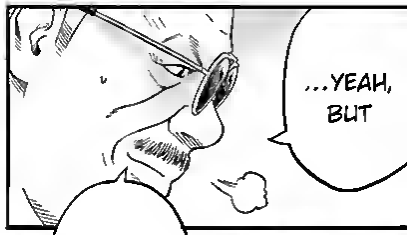
HE'S GETTING EVEN STRONGER ...!?
THUD

I CAN'T AFFORD TO JUST THROW IN THE TOWEL!!
ORAA AAH!!!
ONCE YOU'VE MADE A FACE LIKE THAT...

HE HASN'T DONE NEARLY ENOUGH LEG RAISES OR SHUFFLING PRACTICE.
HIS UPPER AND LOWER BODY ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE AND HIS POSTURE IS TERRIBLE.
BUT ...
WHAT CLUMSY PUSHING TECH-NIQUE...
大太刀高校

THIS MAN IS... INVINCIBLE!?
SPURT
TO BECOME THE KING OF COMBAT SPORTS AND DEVOUR THE WORLD...
EASTERN CORNER WINS!

WE CAN'T AFFORD LET THAT ONE GET AWAY FROM US, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S A GOLDEN EGG RIGHT THERE.


...YEAH, BUT

APPARENTLY HIS DREAM IS

Translation NOTES!

PG 11: TASUKIZORI (襷反り) IS AN EXTREMELY RARE FINISHING MOVE THAT HAS ONLY BEEN USED ONCE IN PROFESSIONAL SUMO OVER THE PAST 57 YEARS (IT HADN'T BEEN USED SINCE JAN 1960 UNTIL JUST RECENTLY IN JAN 2017 WHERE IT WAS USED IN A TOURNAMENT.)! IT'S SO RARE KAWADA EVEN SPELT IT INCORRECTLY AS FUSUMAZORI. KUNISAKI DEMONSTRATES IT IN THE LEFT-MOST IMAGE AND IT WAS HIS FINISHING MOVE AGAINST OODENTA. IT INVOLVES DUCKING UNDER AND GRABBING THE OPPONENTS ELBOW WITH ONE ARM, THEN GRABBING THE INSIDE OF THEIR OPPOSITE LEG WITH THE REMAINING ARM TO SCOOP THEM UP AND OVER THE USER'S BACK.

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Scruffy8642

QUALITY CHECKER
Kyou Kai

TYPESETTER
Hanzeon

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123 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

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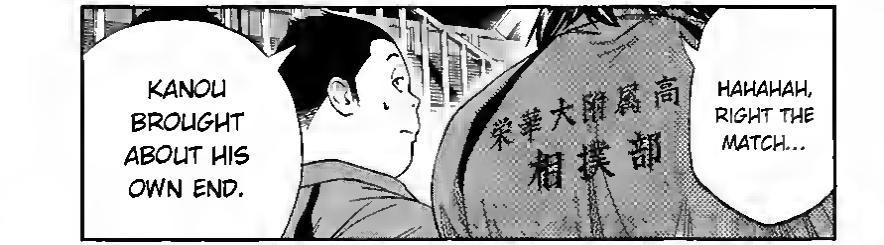
BROUGHT TO YOU BY FALLEN ANGELS

I WOULD SAY YOUR EFFORT MAY HAVE HAD AN INFLUENCE ON HIM...
... PUSHING HIS OPPONENT OUT OF THE RING WITHOUT A CARE FOR HIS APPEARANCE...
HIS FRIEND'S VICTORY HAS BEEN BURNT INTO HIS VERY EYES.

Round 123: WITHIN A WEAK MIND LIES A STRONG WILL

T/N: PUSHING THE OPPONENT OUT OF THE RING WHILE HOLDING THEIR BELT

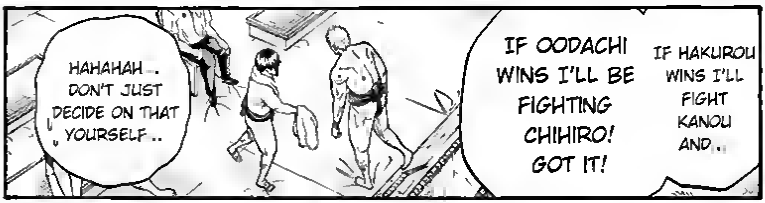
... LOOKING BACK ON IT, KUNISAKI HAD A COMPLETE VICTORY REALLY..
KANOU DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SHINE EVEN ONCE
KUNISAKI'S DANGEROUS.. HE JUST KEEPS GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER
C'MON GIMME A BREAK
NO KIDDING
I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS...



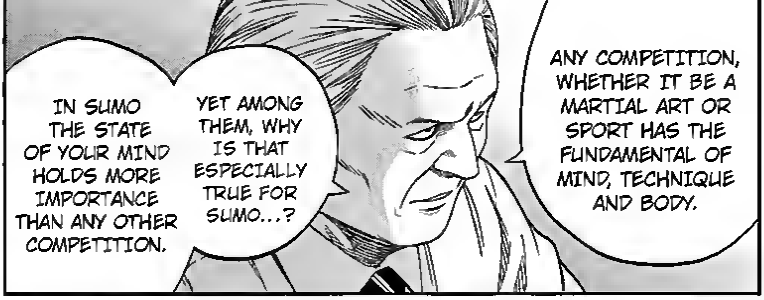
ON THE JACKET EIGADAI AFFILIATED HIGH SCHOOL SUMO CLUB.

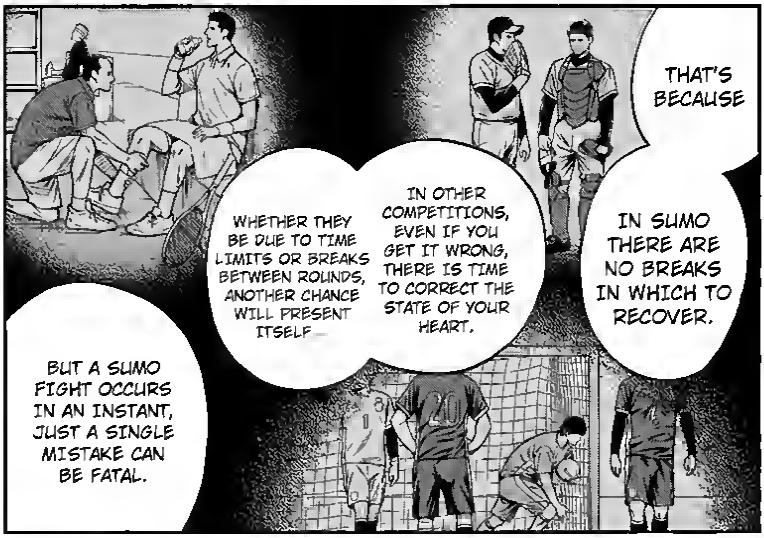
CHIRIHO'S SUDDEN PUSH CAUSED A MOMENT'S HESITATION SINCE HE NORMALLY USES OTHER TRICKS AND NOT SIMPLE MOVES.
"IS HE REALLY TRYING TO FINISH ME WITH A PUSH?" THOSE THOUGHTS LEAD TO A LAPSE IN HIS REACTION TIME.
ON THE OTHER HAND, CHIHIRO REALISED THIS AND DIDN'T LET THE CHANCE ESCAPE HIM...

AS EXPECTED
OF THE MAN WHO GREW UP LOOKING AT MY BACK!
•EIGADAI AFFILIATED HIGH SCHOOL 3RD YEAR
•HYOUDOU MASATO


HAHAHAH.. DON'T JUST DECIDE ON THAT YOURSELF..
IF OODACHI WINS I'LL BE FIGHTING CHIHIRO! GOT IT!
IF HAKUROU WINS I'LL FIGHT KANOU AND..

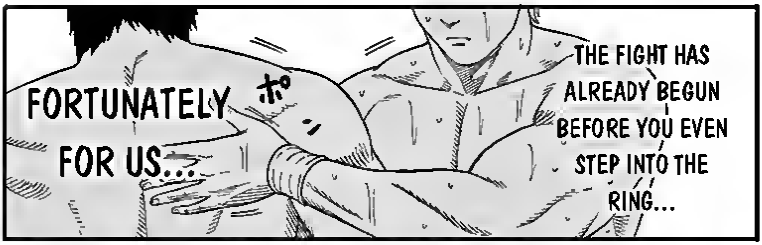
?
...THE "MIND"
IN MIND, TECHNIQUE AND BODY..
...SORRY GUYS...
I COULDN'T GET THE WIN...


ANY COMPETITION, WHETHER IT BE A MARTIAL ART OR SPORT HAS THE FUNDAMENTAL OF MIND, TECHNIQUE AND BODY.
YET AMONG THEM, WHY IS THAT ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR SUMO...?
IN SUMO THE STATE OF YOUR MIND HOLDS MORE IMPORTANCE THAN ANY OTHER COMPETITION.


THAT'S BECAUSE
IN SUMO THERE ARE NO BREAKS IN WHICH TO RECOVER.
IN OTHER COMPETITIONS, EVEN IF YOU GET IT WRONG, THERE IS TIME TO CORRECT THE STATE OF YOUR HEART.
WHETHER THEY BE DUE TO TIME LIMITS OR BREAKS BETWEEN ROUNDS, ANOTHER CHANCE WILL PRESENT ITSELF—
BUT A SUMO FIGHT OCCURS IN AN INSTANT, JUST A SINGLE MISTAKE CAN BE FATAL.

THAT'S WHY IT'S NECESSARY TO PUT YOUR MIND IN ORDER BEFORE STEPPING INTO THE RING.
IN THAT SENSE, YOU WERE TOO EAGER AND OVER-STRAINED YOURSELF.
YOU WERE TRYING TO CARRY THE TEAM IN SHIDOU'S STEAD...
I DIDN'T NOTICE AND THAT WAS MY MISTAKE.

...
YES.
... THE STRENGTH OF MY MIND, HUH.
YOU CAN GET STRONGER STILL.
...STILL, YOU SHOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THAT.
YOU'RE WEAK.


FORTUNATELY FOR US...
THE FIGHT HAS ALREADY BEGUN BEFORE YOU EVEN STEP INTO THE RING...

THAT'S NOT A WORRY WHEN IT COMES TO THIS MAN...
FOURTH MATCH...

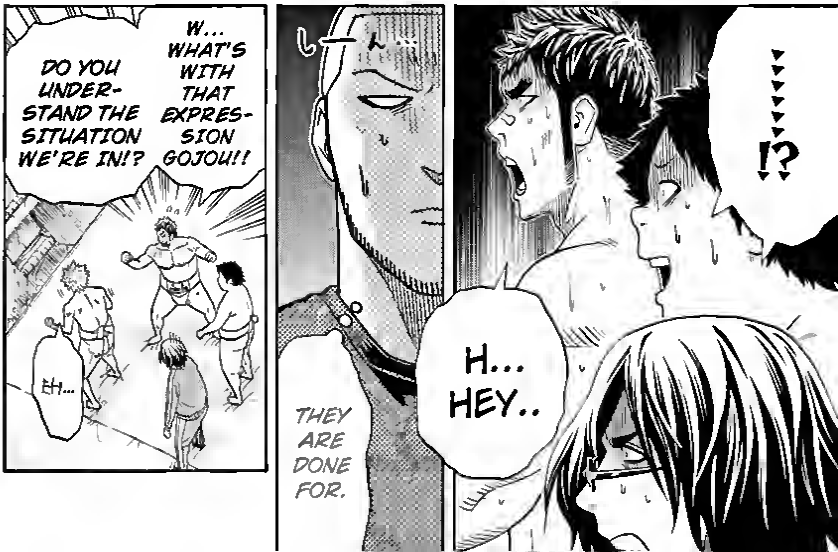
HE'S AN UNKNOWN ENTITY TO US.
HE'S THE ONLY MEMBER OF HAKUROU WE HAVE NO DATA ON...
THERE HE IS ...
THE MONGOLIAN FIRST YEAR EXCHANGE STUDENT.
BATOMF BATBAYAR ...
.....
...IN THE SPRING THREE-PERSON TEAM DIVISION MATCH AGAINST HAKUROU,
THE ONLY WIN WE WERE ABLE TO ATTAIN WAS AGAINST A DIFFERENT MONGOLIAN WHO WAS A THIRD YEAR...
HE WAS ALSO STRONG ENOUGH TO BE A REGULAR ON THE TEAM WITHOUT BRINGING SHAME TO HAKUROU'S NAME.
HOWEVER THE AMOUNT OF FOREIGNERS IN THE REGULAR LINE-UP OF A HIGH SCHOOL SUMO TEAM IS LIMITED TO JUST
ONE...
THAT BAT-GUY,
MANAGED TO WIN HIS POSITION DESPITE BEING A FIRST YEAR...

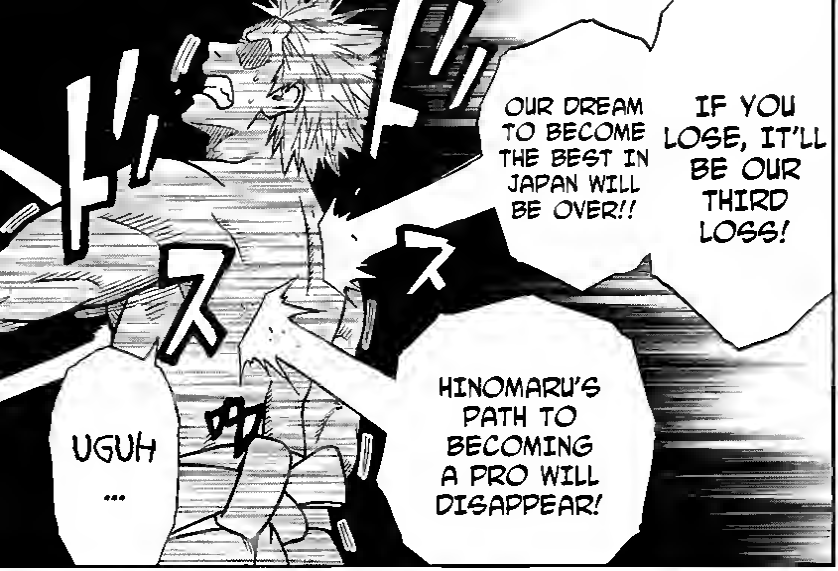
FOR WHATEVER REASON HE DIDN'T PARTICIPATE IN THE INDIVIDUAL DIVISION...
SO WE'RE ONLY ABLE TO JUDGE HIS STRENGTH BASED OFF OF HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE TEAM FIGHTS.
THERE SHOULD BE OTHERS HERE WHO CAN FEEL IT TOO...
SOME-THING'S OFF ABOUT HIM..

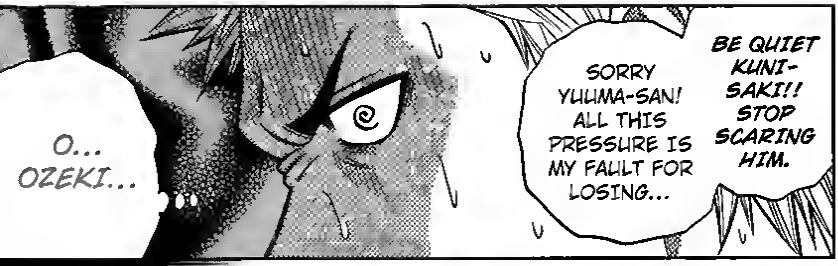
THE "BLOODLUST" BREWING INSIDE HIM...
IS NOT NORMAL.

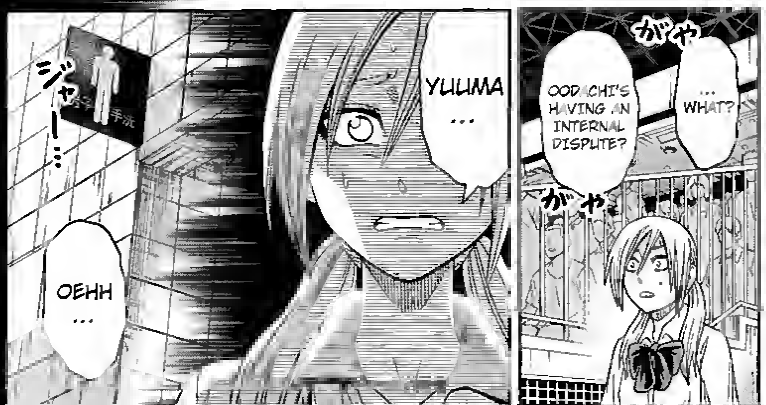
THE MAN WHO'S UP NEXT,
HAS NEVER PERFORMED WELL WHEN THE TEAM'S BEEN IN DIRE SITUATIONS IN THE PAST...
...DACHI HIGH MANAGED TO AVOID THREE CONSE-CUTIVE LOSSES, BUT
ALL THEY'VE DONE IS GIVE THEMSELVES A TINY SHRED OF HOPE...
WHO KNOWS IF THEY CAN STILL COME BACK FROM THIS... AFTER ALL...
KUNI-SAKI!!
DAMN YOU'RE RELIABLE!!
HAHAHA, OF COURSE I AM, IT'S ME YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
...NOW THEN,
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, BUT
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW TO HOW THEY WERE IN THE PREFECTURAL PRELIMS
GO SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU GOT,
GOJO ...
!?

...EH?
カリ
チ
D...
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?


W... WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRES-SION GOJOU!!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND THE SITUATION WE'RE IN!?
EH...
しーん…
THEY ARE DONE FOR.
H... HEY..
!?


IF YOU LOSE, IT'LL BE OUR THIRD LOSS!
OUR DREAM TO BECOME THE BEST IN JAPAN WILL BE OVER!!
HINOMARU'S PATH TO BECOMING A PRO WILL DISAPPEAR!
UGUH ...


BE QUIET KUNI-SAKI!! STOP SCARING HIM.
SORRY YUUMA-SAN! ALL THIS PRESSURE IS MY FAULT FOR LOSING...
O... OZEKI...

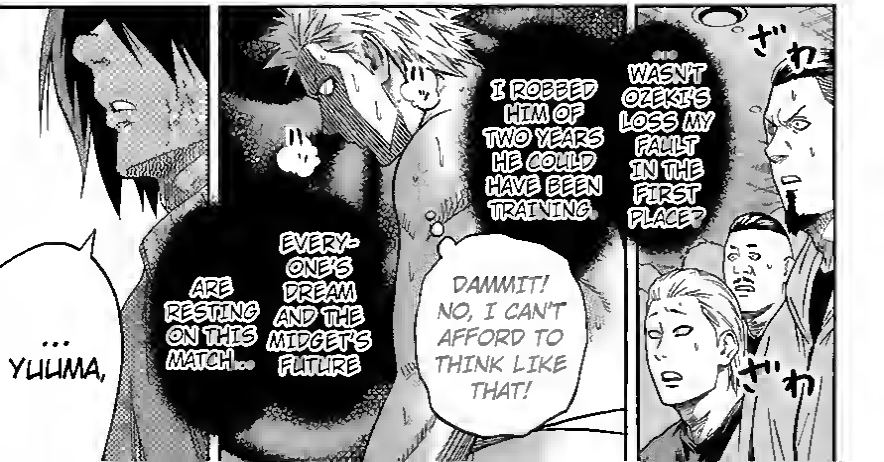

YUUMA ...
OEHH ...
ジャー...
がや
... WHAT?
OOD◇CHI'S HAVING AN INTERNAL DISPUTE?
がや

...YOU OKAY, YUUMA?
THE SEMI-FINALS ARE ABOUT TO START...
ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?
THEY SAY, THAT "MIND" IS IMPORTANT IN SUMO...
?

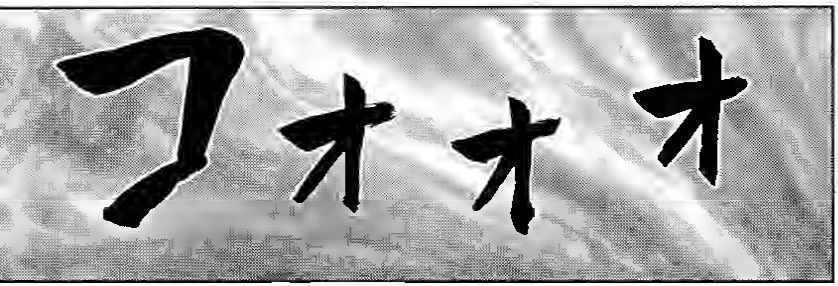
THE MIDGET AND KUNISAKI ARE ONE THING,
BUT EVEN OZEKI HAS NERVES OF STEEL.
MITSU-HASHI TOO...
AND HE'S THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO GO FLYING WHEN HE FIGHTS...

I'M THE ONLY ONE...
SHITTING MYSELF AFTER COMING THIS FAR.
I PROBABLY HAVE THE WEAKEST MENTAL STATE
IN THE WHOLE TEAM...

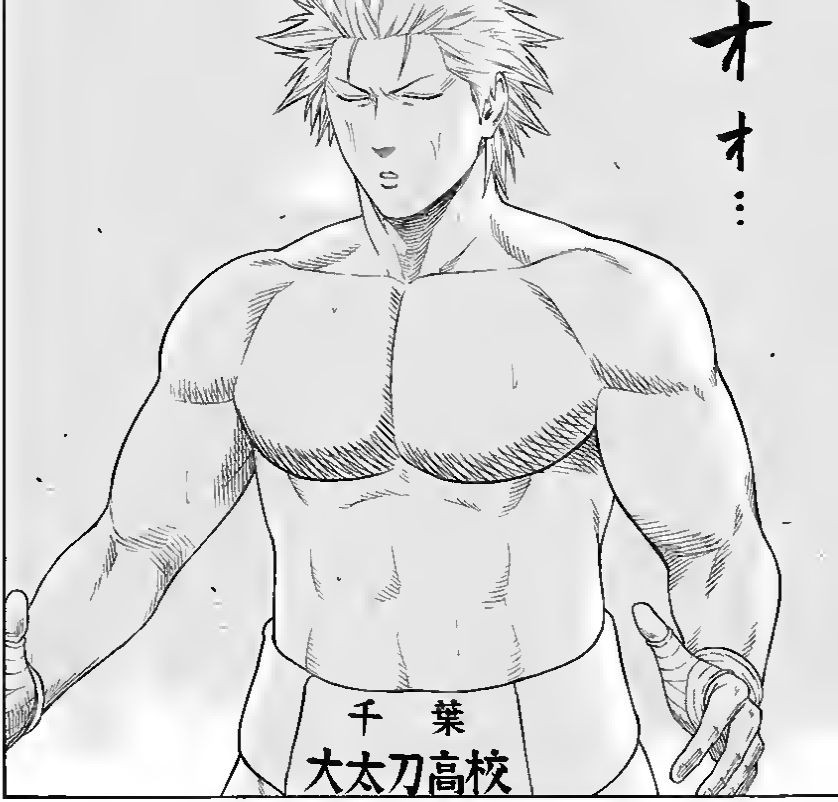
OUR OPPONENT'S TODAY ARE THE STRONGEST WE'VE EVER HAD TO FACE...
THE WEIGHT OF A SINGLE VICTORY... A SINGLE LOSS...
ぎゅっ...
IF WE CAN WIN ANOTHER TWO ROUNDS WE'LL BECOME NUMBER ONE IN JAPAN...
THAT'S WHY...
WHEN I THINK THAT MY LOSS COULD END THE TEAM'S DREAM,
I GET SO TERRIFIED I CAN'T STOP TREMBLING.
IT'S IRONIC...
I'VE CRUSHED SO MANY PEOPLE'S DREAMS IN THE PAST, YET I CAN'T MAN UP MYSELF...


WASN'T OZEKI'S LOSS MY FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
ざわ
I ROBBED HIM OF TWO YEARS HE COULD HAVE BEEN TRAINING.
DAMMIT! NO, I CAN'T AFFORD TO THINK LIKE THAT!
EVERY-ONE'S DREAM AND THE MIDGET'S FUTURE ARE RESTING ON THIS MATCH...
...
YUUMA,
ざわ

DON'T THINK OF THIS AS A PINCH,
THINK OF IT AS A CHANCE.
WHAT'S IN THE PAST CAN'T BE CHANGED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME,
JUST GO OUT THERE AND FIGHT
WITH YOUR SUMO TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES!



SFX: WHEEEEEEW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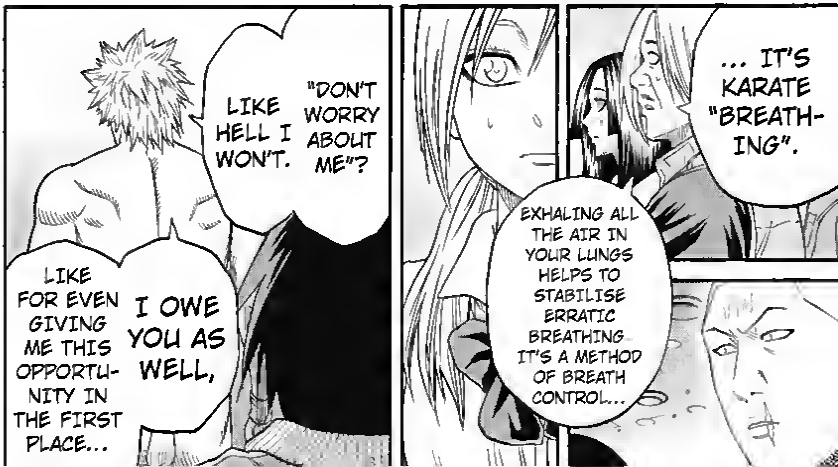
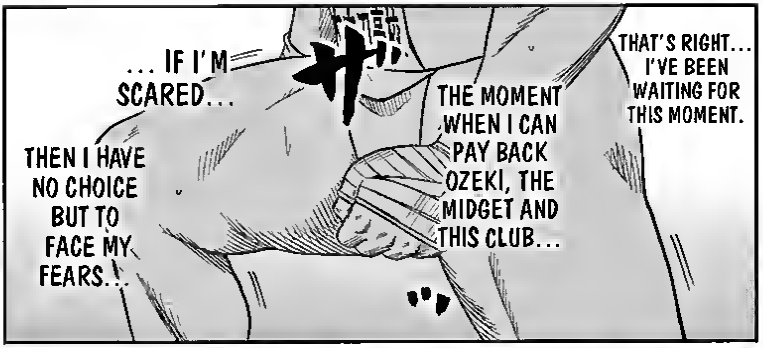
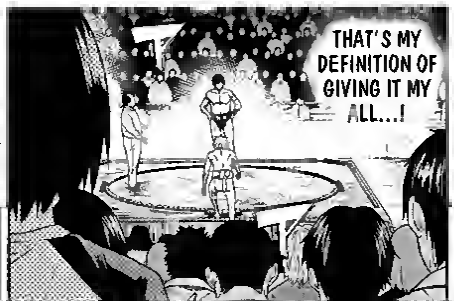
大太刀高校

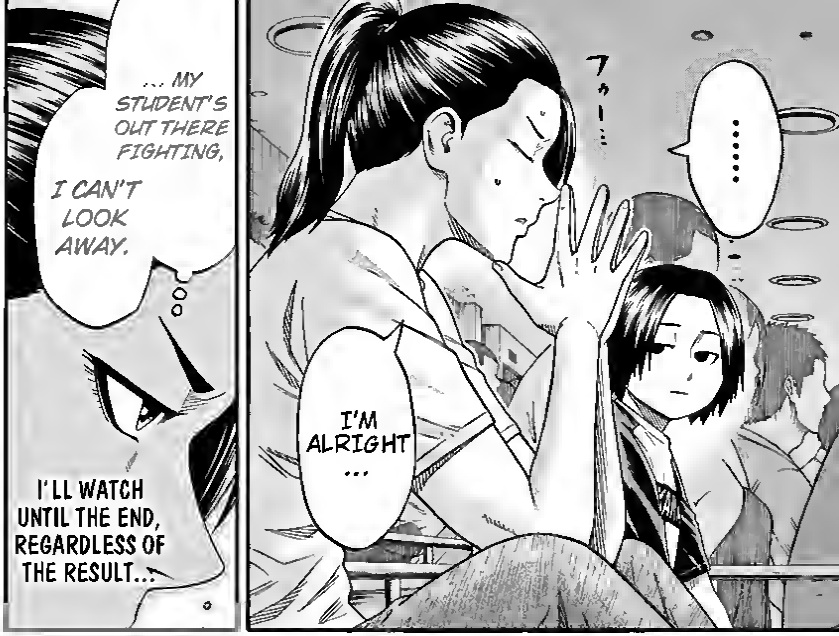

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME"?
LIKE HELL I WON'T.
I OWE YOU AS WELL,
LIKE FOR EVEN GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY IN THE FIRST PLACE...
... IT'S KARATE "BREATHING".
EXHALING ALL THE AIR IN YOUR LUNGS HELPS TO STABILISE ERRATIC BREATHING IT'S A METHOD OF BREATH CONTROL...

...I'M ALSO A MEMBER OF THE DACHI HIGH SUMO CLUB.
I'LL BE BEARING SOME OF THE RESPONSI-BILITY AS WELL...!
...
YEAH!


THAT'S RIGHT... I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT.
THE MOMENT WHEN I CAN PAY BACK OZEKI, THE MIDGET AND THIS CLUB...
... IF I'M SCARED...
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE MY FEARS...

.....
SHOULDN'T YOU DO THAT TOO MUM?
THE BREATHING THING.


THAT'S MY DEFINITION OF GIVING IT MY ALL...!


... MY STUDENT'S OUT THERE FIGHTING,
I CAN'T LOOK AWAY.
I'LL WATCH UNTIL THE END, REGARDLESS OF THE RESULT...
フゥー...
.....
I'M ALRIGHT ...

FOR THE RECORD,
I'M STRONGER THAN KANOU -SAN, YOU KNOW.
ガッ
ガッ
HAH ...
YOU'RE SHAK- ING,
YOU POOR THING...

!?
I'VE GOT TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF IN THIS TOURNAMENT
IN ORDER TO BECOME A PRO AND ALL.
SO WHY DO I HAVE TO FIGHT THIS GUY... I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND HERE.
...SHUT IT.
I COULDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR CIRCUM-STANCES...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S MY OPPONENT, IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH HELL AND HIGH WATER,
I WON'T LET MY COMRADE'S DREAMS END HERE!!!
THE TIME HAS COME, IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT!!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 123 / END

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Scruffy8642

QUALITY CHECKER
Kyou Kai

TYPESETTER
Hanzeon

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PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING THIS MANGA TO SUPPORT THE
AUTHOR WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY!

124 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

"BÖKH"

A GRAPPLING MARTIAL ART THAT HAS BEEN PRACTICED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES IN MONGOLIA.

BEING SIMILAR TO SUMO IN MANY ASPECTS, IT IS KNOWN AS "MONGOLIAN SUMO" IN JAPAN.

IT IS FOREIGN SUMO...

KAWADA

Round: 124: WITH MY LIFE ON THE LINE...!

IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF MONGOLIA

MONGOLIA, ULAN BATOR*

I KNOW WE'VE ESTABLISHED A TEST FOR SUMO EXCHANGE STUDENTS TO PICK OUT THE BEST, BUT...

WE'VE GOT A PARTICULARLY GOOD ONE THIS YEAR.

I'M TOLD HE STARTED BOKH WHEN HE WAS 6, AND HE'S EVEN WON A NAADAM* ...

JUST LOOK AT HIM...

*ON A FESTIVAL IN MONGOLIA KNOWN AS "THE THREE GAMES OF MEN" PARTICIPANTS COMPETE IN BOKH, HORSE RIDING AND ARCHERY.

OOOOO
OOOOO
OOOOO
OOOOO
OOH
BATOMF BATBAYAR ...
IT'S CLEAR HE WILL BE OUR PICK FOR THIS YEAR.

WHAT YOU SAY!?
鳥取白樺
TN: BEING MONGOLIAN, THEIR JAPANESE ISN'T PERFECT
TRY SAY THAT AGAIN!!
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
FUCHS-SAN...?
ざわ
I SAY IT AGAIN.
THERE IS ONLY ONE SPOT IN TEAM FOR FOREIGNER.
YOU WEAKER THAN ME. SO HAND OVER YOUR POSITION AS REGULAR
...THAT'S ENOUGH BAT.
ガシ

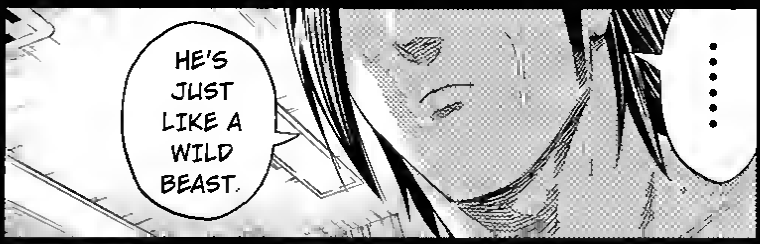
DON'T FORGET YA MANNERS, THEY COME BEFORE STRENGTH.
THAT BE HAVIOUR OF YOURS IS THE REASON
THE COACH AIN'T USIN' YOU.
MAN-NERS?
THE HELL...
SURELY YOU NOT TELLING ME TO LET THIS GO JUST BECAUSE HE OLDER THAN ME
I CAME TO JAPAN TO BECOME PROFESSIO-NAL SUMO WRESTLER!
TO DO THAT, I HAVE STUDIED JAPANESE AND DONE A LOT OF LEG RAISES!
UNLIKE ALL OF YOU, I NOT PLAYING AROUND HERE!!
...YOU ARE THE STRONGEST ONE HERE, RIGHT?

I HAVE NEVER FOUGHT YOU PROPERLY BEFORE.
IF I DEFEAT YOU, WILL YOU CHANGE YOU ATTITUDE TOWARD ME?
HEY BAT, THAT'S ENOU-
!
... MUTUAL RESPECT IS BORN FROM KNOWIN' EACH OTHER...
I DON'T KNOW MUCH 'BOUT YOU EITHER
FINE, LET'S START BY GETTIN'
TO KNOW EACH OTHER A LITTLE, SHALL WE?
ガヤ
NO TALKING IN THE RING, YOU TWO!
GOT IT!?
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ

GEEZ, HE NEVER CHANGES ...
...STILL, HE BETTER BEHAVED THAN USED TO BE THANKS TO SHIDOU.
HMPH ...
BESI- DES...
IT LIKE BAT TO BE SO SOUR...
.....
SO...
SO STRONG ...

NO NO NO!! FUCK OFF!!
IF I LOSE HERE ...
IT'S OVER!
A FORE-ARM THROW!
THIS CAN'T BE REAL...?
TO LOSE AGAINST SOME JAPANESE SCHOOL STUDENT...
AM I GOING TO LOSE...?
CREAK CREAK
ARGG GHHH HH!!
I WILL NEVER BECOME A YOKOZUNA !!!
.....
YOU FOOL ...!

!!

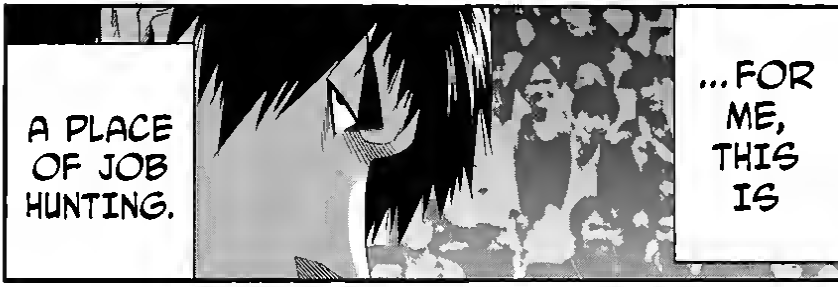

HE'S JUST LIKE A WILD BEAST.
.....

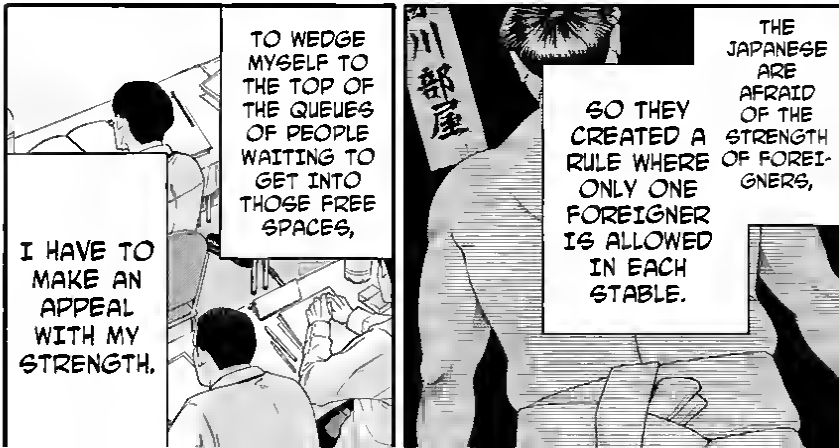
... TOO FAR?
IF OUR POSITIONS WERE REVERSED, IT WOULD'VE ENDED IN A SIMILAR WAY.
THAT'S THE KIND'A FIGHT IT WAS.
YOU WENT TOO FAR AS WELL, BRO!!
DON'T BE SO RECKLESS WHEN THE MATCH IS ALREADY DECIDED...
IT'S JUST DISLOCATED, HE SHOULD BE OKAY WITH SOME REST...

WE WON'T JUST GIVE 'EM UP.
BOTH FUCHS AND I ARE ALSO
FOOLS AIMIN' TA BE YOKO-ZUNA.
フッ…
…THERE'S A VACANCY IN MY DORM AT THE MOMENT SO I NEED A ROOMMATE.
TAKE IT AS AN APOLOGY FOR THE INJURY
I'LL PERSONALLY TEACH YA EVERY-THIN' YA NEED TA KNOW, STARTING WITH MANNERS TO EVEN CLEANIN' A TOILET,
BAT.

...THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.
IN THIS VENUE, ONLY THE VERY STRONGEST ARE GATHERED FROM AROUND JAPAN.
HANDS AT THE READY!
YET THERE AREN'T MANY HERE LIKE ME AND BIG BRO TENNOUJI WHO AREN'T HERE FOR GAMES...
I'M NOT HERE TO HAVE FUN.

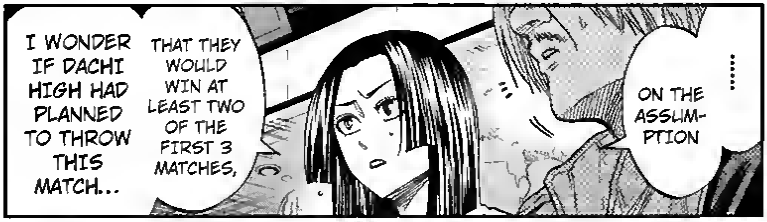
TN: BAT'S THOUGHTS ARE FLUENT, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE'S THINKING IN HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE



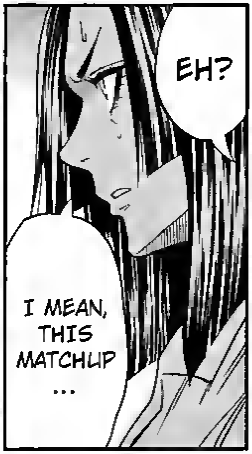

I HAVE TO MAKE AN APPEAL WITH MY STRENGTH.
TO WEDGE MYSELF TO THE TOP OF THE QUEUES OF PEOPLE WAITING TO GET INTO THOSE FREE SPACES,
SO THEY CREATED A RULE WHERE ONLY ONE FOREIGNER IS ALLOWED IN EACH STABLE.
THE JAPANESE ARE AFRAID OF THE STRENGTH OF FOREIGNERS,

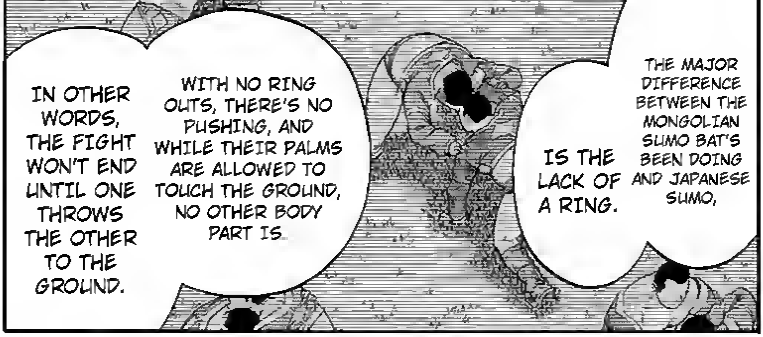
HE'S JUST LIKE ME,
HE'S NOT HERE FOR GAMES...

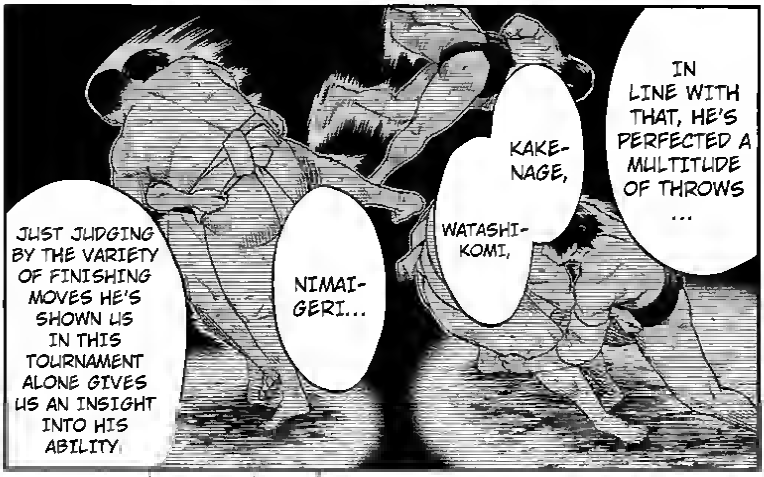
YET, I'VE GOT THIS GUY AS MY OPPONENT.
DEFEATING HIM WON'T GET ME ANYWHERE.
I WANTED TO FIGHT SOMEONE STRONGER LIKE ONIMARU.


I WONDER IF DACHI HIGH HAD PLANNED TO THROW THIS MATCH...
THAT THEY WOULD WIN AT LEAST TWO OF THE FIRST 3 MATCHES,
.....
ON THE ASSUMPTION

PUTS GOJOU-KUN
AT AN OVERWHELMING DISADVANTAGE ...!!


EH?
I MEAN, THIS MATCHUP ...


THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MONGOLIAN SUMO BAT'S BEEN DOING AND JAPANESE SUMO,
IS THE LACK OF A RING.
WITH NO RING OUTS, THERE'S NO PUSHING, AND WHILE THEIR PALMS ARE ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE GROUND, NO OTHER BODY PART IS.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE FIGHT WON'T END UNTIL ONE THROWS THE OTHER TO THE GROUND.

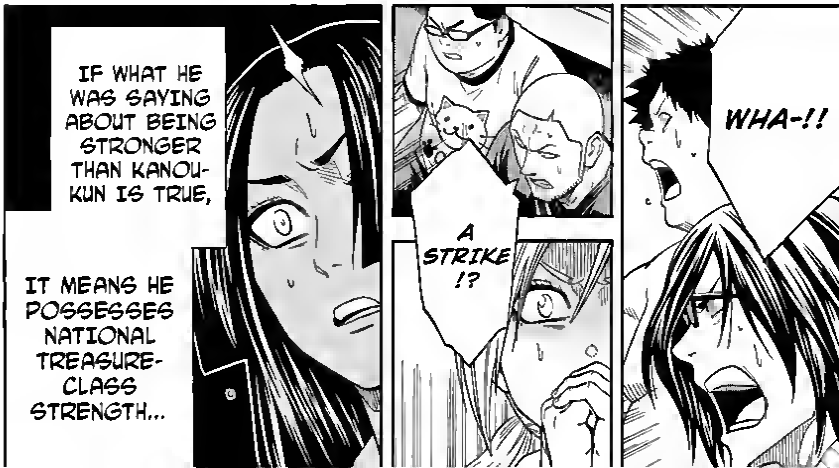

IN LINE WITH THAT, HE'S PERFECTED A MULTITUDE OF THROWS ...
KAKE-NAGE,
WATASHI-KOMI,
NIMAI-GERI...
JUST JUDGING BY THE VARIETY OF FINISHING MOVES HE'S SHOWN US IN THIS TOURNAMENT ALONE GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO HIS ABILITY.

TN: INNER THIGH THROWS, THIGH-GRABBING PUSH-DOWN THROWS, ANKLE-KICKING TWIST-DOWNS

COMPARED TO SUCH A SPECIALIST IN GRAPPLES,
GOJOU -KUN IS INCREDIBLY BAD AT THEM.
IF HE'S CAUGHT, HE'S DONE...
GOJOU -KUN ONLY HAS HIS "STRIKES."
... MEANING IF HE HAS A CHANCE OF VICTORY.

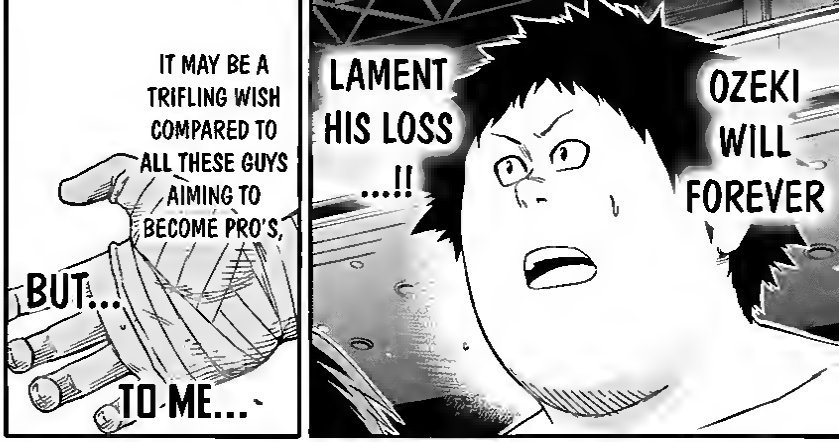
DO YOUR BEST ...
YOU ARE STR-ONG, YUUMA ..!
シィーン...
IT'S IN HOW EFFECTIVE THE STRIKES WHICH DON'T EXIST IN MONGOLIAN SUMO WILL BE AGAINST BAT-KUN.
BEGIN!!

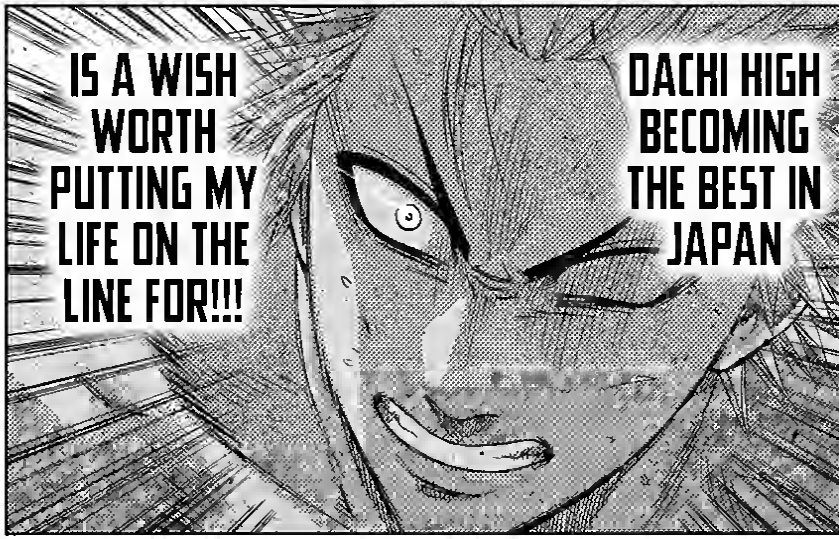
!!
江刀高校


IF WHAT HE WAS SAYING ABOUT BEING STRONGER THAN KANOU-KUN IS TRUE,
IT MEANS HE POSSESSES NATIONAL TREASURE-CLASS STRENGTH...
A STRIKE !?
WHA-!!

... HOWEVER, HE IS NOT CALLED A "NATIONAL TREASURE" ...
"NAT ONAL TREA-SURE"
IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE JAPANESE YOKOZUNA CANDIDATES WHO MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE LONG-LASTING PROSPERITY OF THE FOREIGN WRESTLERS...
... YOUR SPECIALTY IS IN STRIKES, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE ...
I WILL DEFEAT YOU WITH STRIKES,
AND APPEAL MY PROFICIENCY
IN SUMO TO THE NATION ...!!
UGH ...
HE'S NATIONAL TREASURE -CLASS.
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN WIN...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN, BUT
I HAVE TO DO IT ANYWAY !!!
THERE THEY ARE!
THE SNAP-BACK STRIKES !!
IF I LOSE HERE, HE...


IT MAY BE A TRIFLING WISH COMPARED TO ALL THESE GUYS AIMING TO BECOME PRO'S,
BUT...
TO ME...
LAMENT HIS LOSS ...!!
OZEKI WILL FOREVER


IS A WISH WORTH PUTTING MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR!!!
OACHI HIGH BECOMING THE BEST IN JAPAN

I SEE...
IF YOU MAKE AN EXPRESSION LIKE THAT, IT...
HE'S NOT PLAYING AROUND ...?

IT'S OKAY...
YUUMA IS
DO YOUR BEST ...!
GIVES ME REASON TO CRUSH YOU!!
STRONGER THAN HE THINKS...!!
A CLASH OF WILLS IN THE RING!!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 124 / END